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NEWS PAGE 3 TEA: DOES

INSIDE THE TABLOID



IN THE TABLOID: CINEMA KAMA SUTRA **BRINGS BAD**

Revealed at last: Why boys will be boys and girls will be girls

Charles Arthur Science Editor

It's the gene that explains feminine intuition. It's the gene that explains why you can persuade a group of adolescent men to attack a machine-gun emplacement. It's the gene that explains why New Men are made, not born.

Its effects may be subtle, but the allocation of a gene would a team of British scientists is have to have an evolutionary adquite certain that they have tracked it down to the X chromosome – one of the two sex chromosomes.

time that behavioural differ- question is, why is it advantaences between sexes have been geous for males to be socially inpinpointed to a single location on one chromosome. Its implications are far-reaching. Professor David Skuse, who led the research at the Institute of Child Health, said: "It may imply that we need to think seriously about providing more structured social education for

boys, compared to girls."
He emphasised that the gene is not a "gene for criminality", or for misbehaviour - though it may explain why boys can more easily be persuaded to hebave badly: they are less able to see

that their behaviour is errant. Both men and women have the gene - but it is only "switched on" in women. Its effect is to make them responsive

to others and able to recognise

social norms without prompting.

Feminine intuition comes about by observing non-verbal hebaviour," said Professor Skuse, "It bas a genetic origin, It's nothing to do with hormones. Boys aren't poor at this because of testosterone. It's because of the X chromosome."

Such a definite sexual split in hromosomes. around them, boys are a blank
The discovery marks the first slate to be written upon. The

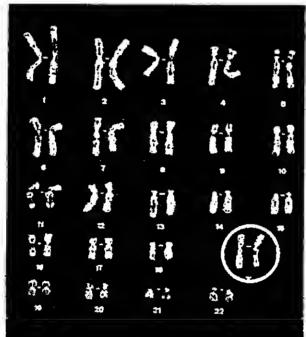
> "It could mean that it's easier for a dominant male in a tribe to recruit them to a bunting party - or even for war. I don't think many young women would he prepared to go into the face of guns like young men did at Gallipoli. And being less empathic makes it easier to go out and kill somebody."

But he did have some reassuring words. "This finding does not mean that men are incapable of learning social skilts. But it does mean they have to be taught them.

New Men, therefore, can only occur through education they aren't born to the role.



genders, according to Professor David Skuse who has led the research



sex chromosomes are both Xs (circled). The other set comes from a man, because it includes the X and Y sex genes (circled, right): you must have

instructs the body to make a sin-gle protein, which has not yet

been identified. But Professor

Skuse doubted that we will

ever be able to bottle feminine

intuition. The protein seems to

affect the brain, probably dur-

day in the science journal Nature,

emerged from interviews with

parents of children who have a

The conclusions, reported to-

ing the embryo stage.

The chromosomes pictured at the left es have the "intuition" gene, located The gene was pinpointed by inter-

E-6.4 E # 4 2

Men carry a silent copy of the gene, which they can pass to their daugha Y gene to be male. Though both sex- ters - who receive a working version.

Turner's Syndrome. Normally,

herited from their mother) and

a Y chromosome (from their fa-

ther); women bave two X

chromsomes, each inherited

from their parents. Turner's Syn-

drome, which only affects fe-

males, is caused by faulty cell

division before conception, and

leaves them with a single X chromosome rather than two

men have an X chromosome (in-

Photographs: Science Photo Library Like all other genes, this one rare genetic condition known as because the egg or sperm fails from their father, the lack of soto deliver an X chromosome. cial skills was less marked.

genetic disorder called Turner's Syn-

drome. They have a single X chro-

This is because of a process

called "imprinting": when two copies of a gene are inherited, only usually of normal intelligence, hut they frequently struggle to learn social behaviour such as one will function. The "intuition" recognising non-verbal signals. gene is turned off in the father's Psychological tests on 80 girls cells - but turned on, or imprintwith this condition found that ed, in his sperm. By contrast, the the effect was more marked in gene is turned off in the mother's egg cells - meaning that under northose who had received their single X gene from their mothmal circumstances a male cannot ers. In those whose X gene came

Girls with the syndrome are

tells Tories to say sorry Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Redwood

A searing attack on the honesty and integrity of Kenneth Clarke and William Hague was delivered by John Redwood vesterday at the start of the second round of the Conservative leadership contest.

He also told a Commons press conference the Tory party should apologise for the lies told in the 1992 election: "We have to say sorry," he said. His main onslaught was re-

served for Mr Hague. The party's 164 MPs were warned if they voted for Mr Hague to stop himself or Mr Clarke becoming leader, they would repeat the mistake of 1990 and end up with another John Major.

With the three remaining runners vying for the floating votes of about 36 MPs who voted for Peter Lilley and Michael Howard on Tuesday, the pace and the language became sharper vesterday.

Mr Clarke said in a frantic round of media interviews that the party had to come to its senses and elect him as the man able to confront Labour's overwhelming majority.

He suggested Mr Hague had not yet got the style, personality or views to make him a Conservative prime minister. "William one day could play a leading role," be added.

Mr Clarke's side-swipe was as nothing compared to the vituperation of Mr Redwood. William isn't quite sure whether he wants more European government or less Euroan government. He would like the Europe question to rest there, unanswered, hoping that Europe might go away," he

On the single currency, Mr Redwood warned in Churchillian tones: "An ostrich Conservative Party will never fly. It will hury its head in the sand at its peril...

The danger of William's position, as I understand it, is that it leaves the question hang-ing in the air. The answer has to be never to the single

Mr Redwood accepted Tony Blair's election charge that the Tories had lied in the 1992 election, on tax, VAT on fuel, Europe, the NHS and the recession; "In order to win again, we must first re-establish our

reputation for telling the truth." lain Duncan Smith, the Redwood campaign manager, said: "One of the reasons why we lost the last election is because the public got to believe that peo-ple in this party would do any-thing, say anything, go behind closed doors and stitch up any-thing. thing, to stay with their hands on the lever of power."

He said Mr Redwood's campaign was based on the themes "Honesty, integrity and decency.

Asked how that distinguished him from his opponents. Mr Redwood deliherately impugned their honesty and in-tegrity, saying to the laughter of his supporters: "I have never said they lack decency..."

Mr Redwood said: "I do not want to split the difference, I want to make the difference. I do not want to stop another candidate. I want to win with a positive programme,"
Speaking for the campaign

team, Mr Duncan Smith said: "You cannot base the electing of a leader on stopping somebody else. Referring to the 1990 lead-

ership contest, when some MPs Michael Heseltine, Mr Duncan Smith added: "We went through this six or seven years ago. If we are to repeat the process, if we look for a stopgap rather than a stop somebody, we will ead up with

nothing."
Politics, pages 8 and 9
Profite of Hague, page 22

From killer to victim: Basher's death sums up the futility of the Troubles



Ireland Correspondent

Robert "Basher" Bates, who was gunned down in Belfast yesterday, was an icon. To some be represented the very worst that the troubles bas produced: to others he was testimony that even the most brutal terrorist might not be beyond redemption.

Two decades ago the 10 murders he was involved in were among the most harbaric ever seen. He shot some of his victims but others he killed in the most cruel fashion, he and his associates wielded butcher's knives, axes and cleavers on random Catholic victims. The Shankill Butchers slaughtered human heings as one would animals.

The horror of those killings took Belfast to a new low. Yesterday his death conjured up the most appalling vista of all: that the IRA was intent on regenerating the troubles. The relief was palpable when it emerged that he had been killed not by the IRA but by a loyalist, in what is thought to have been personal revenge for the murder by Bates of a close relative, 20 years ago in a bar room brawl.

Basher Bates was one of hundreds of convicted killers released after serving an average of 15 years behind bars. There are hundreds of unsettled

other leved ones. Yet this seems to have been the first personal revenge killing of a released prisoner.

While loyalist groups have ac-counted for close on 1,000 of the 3,500 victims of the Troubles, the ferocity and awfulness of the Shankilt Butchers' killings have remained in the public memory for two full decades.

A book dwelling on the graphic details has been a local bestseller for 20 years, and can still be picked up in many of the garage shops of Belfast. It was, for example, the favourite reading of Thomas Begley, the young IRA man who four years ago carried a bomb into a Shankill Road fish shop, killing himself and nine Protestants.

Bates was not the prime mover in the Shankill Butchers gang: that was UVF man Lennic Murphy, who was shot dead by the IRA in 1982. But he was one of the leading lights during their two-year reign of lerror, and one photograph of him, looking like an unshaven, unkempt dullard, has remained lodged in the communal memory as a vision of a psychopathic

personal grudges in Northern Ire-land; quite a few people know, ur think they know, who killed their fathers or tarian bigotry." When be told him he ever a lasting monument to blind sectarian bigotry." When be told him he should remain behind bars for the rest of his natural life, society shuddered and boped it had heard the last of Basher Bates.

But Northern Ireland has a scheme, not found in the rest of the UK, for the release of even the most notorious killers, and more than 300 loyalists and republicans have been quietly freed over the tast decade. Many of these former lifers engross themselves, as Bates seemed to be doing, in community or welfare work.

As the years passed in jail, Bates was at first a difficult prisoner, then a trouhied soul and finally a remorseful bornagain Christian, praying fervently for forgiveness. One who knew him in prison said of him: "He's now a shell of a man, very quiet and inoffensive in a hland kind of way. The hair has gone, he's prematurely bald. He has found the Lord and he's no threat to anyone."

Basher Bates made a long and painful journey from merciless assassin to man of God. His personal odyssey seemed to be over; neither he nor anyone else could have foreseen the fateful circularity which in the end transformed him from killer to victim.





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recent release from prison

Memorial in doubt British artist Rachel Whiteread disclosed that the holocaust memorial she designed for Vien-na may never be installed because of political in-fighting. Page 7

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significant shorts

Baccalaureate-style studies for sixth-formers

The Government yesterday left the way open for reform of the sixth form curriculum as it announced plans to defer changes to Alevels and vocational courses, and develop a single umbrella

Though government sources are playing down the delay, the proposed "overarching certificate" for young people, encompassing academic or vocational subjects and key skills indicates ministers are prepared to go further than their Conservative predecessors in overhauling post-16 qualifications.

The plans could include a version of the French baccalaureate, which would require sixth form pupils to take a range of subjects including arts and sciences.

Rerendum Party cannot claim libel

A judge ruled yesterday that Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party could not hring an action for libel.

Allowing political parties to sue for defamation would impose an undesirable fetter on free speech in a democratic society and was against the public interest, Mr Justice Buckley ruled.

Sir James and the party had complained in write about a report

against the public interest, Mr Justice Duckley thieu.

Sir James and the party had complained in writs about a report headed "Goldsmith looks for dignified exit from election race" in Sunday Business on 23 March. The judge gave leave to appeal. Patricia Wynn Davies

Surrogacy expenses to be capped



Expenses paid to surrogate mothers could be capped following an independent review of surrogacy law announced by the Government

Tessa Jowell (left), the health minister, said that a team of three experts will investigate whether a body should be set up to regulate the arrangements made by childless couples to women who agree to bear children for them. .

Surrogacy must not be commercialised and a surrogate mother cannot be forced to give up her baby if she changes her mind. Parents are allowed to pay surrogate mothers or give them expenses but it is illegal for a third party to profit from a surrogacy arrangement. Glenda Coope

Serial rapist struck across Britain

A serial rapist who has terrorised women in the North of England and the Midlands might be responsible for a string of attacks

Up to 25 new victims of the sex attacker, who has been positively linked with at least five crimes in 13 years, have come forward after

an appeal on BBC1's Crimewatch UK on Tuesday.

The publicity prompted more than 1,000 calls, at least half of which named possible suspects. Another 25 were from women who thought they may have been victims of the man. Calls from Scotland, Ireland, Berkshire, Hertfordshire and Hampshire are among those to he investigated, as well as from West Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire - the three countles where the rapist is known to have struck before.

Inmates board prison ship

The first inmates were safely loaded aboard a controversial new prison ship yesterday. Froin early morning the men, all low security category D inmates, were taken by buses to Weymouth in Dorset from neighbouring jails. Twenty-one were expected to spend the night moored off the Dorset coast abroad the HMP Weare, which is Britain's first prison ship since Victorian times.

Stowaways found on Eurostar

Four stowaways were found hidden under a Eurostar train after surviving the journey under the English Channel from France. They were discovered in an inspection hatch underneath the train, which halted at Ashford, Kent, after passing through the Channel Tunnel. Passengers said they were told the stowaways were Moldovans but their nationality could not be confirmed by police.

Ex-policemen jailed in Cyprus

charge at the criminal court in Limassol.

Two former British policemen were jailed for 18 months yesterday after admitting burglary in an industrial espionage case in Cyprus.

Retired Detective Chief Inspector Michael Flack and ex-Detective Constable Paul Whybrow claimed they were "set up" as they investigated the unlawful copying of patented pharmaceutical products on the island. Both confessed to stealing documents from

a customs clearing office in Fehruary. Whybrow, 47, and Flack, 52, from Bexley, south-east London, pleaded guilty to a single burglary

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Denise Stacey: Determined to win compensation from employers (Photograph: Keith Dobney)

'Auf Wiedersehn' wife fights for justice for her husband

British bricklayer who tumbled to his reign workers have been killed or injured because of death from a luxury German apartment block will next week bring an historic criminal prosecution

against his employers.

Denise Stacey, e mother of two young children, will fly to Germany to act as joint prosecutor with the Leipzig. state prosecutor in bringing a case of negligent manslaughter against British and German construc-

David Carter, a director of David Carter construction Management of Amersham, and two directors of ABN, e firm of German developers, are also charged with endangering the lives of their workers.

Mrs Stacey's husband, Len, died from horrific injuries after falling from the roof of the Leipzig flats, three years ago. There was no scaffolding or netting around

the building to break his fall. Despite intense pressure to let the matter rest, in-

cluding threats made to her personal safety, Mrs Stacey has been determined to bring the metter before the courts. She said: "I have had to light tooth and nail." They wanted to cover up my husband's death." hey wanted to cover up my husband's death." the building.

The hearing will be a landmark case in Germany andThe building firms have strenuously decied liability.

could open the way for a walter of litigation claims. by in a statement to the German authorities, Mr Carter against German's booming construction industry. She has the backing of IGEAU, the German con ... were responsible for their own safety. struction union, which believes that many more for-

or their families to act as co-prosecutors in criminal proceedings in exceptional cases. It was at the height of the last recession that Mr Stacey

oined the ranks of British building workers in Germany, adopting the lifestyle depicted in the television drama Auf Wiedersehn Pet. He had been working in Germany for six months

hen he was knocked from the top of the unfinished when he was knocked from the top of the unfinished building after a pile of concrete blocks fell around him.

At an inquest in Usbridge, the coroner likened Mr. Stacey's injuries to that of a plane crash victim. The corpus said that Mr Stacey would have survived if the building had had safety rails.

The case opens on Tuesday at the Ellenburg criminal court, near Leipzig. One of the witnesses will be a light part lightern.

Leonard Johnson, a Kent construction worker, who was opening a pallet of concrete blocks when it acciden-tally collapsed. Blocks fell onto Mr. Stacey, who was kneeding down, and he was knocked over the side of

they divorced.

Divorce settled

after 30 years

husband of bringing "nothing into

the marriage except twelve pack-

ets of crisps and four pounds one

shilling and sixpence" was yester-

they lived - nearly 30 years after

Lord Woolf, the Master of the

Justice Miliett were told in the

Rolls, Lord Justice Ward, and Lord

Court of Appeal that all Patricia Hill

received in settlement after the di-

vorce in 1969 was a maintenance

The judges decided that she could

order for their two sons, £75 in

make claims for e lump sum pay-

ment and share of the house after

hearing that the couple had cohabit-

ed for 25 years after the divorce, be-

Mr Hill, was refused leave to ap-

Mrs Hill agreed with her former

much money into the marriage but

husband that she did not bring

said she also had "e packet of Ritz biscuits and half a pound of

fore finally splitting when John Hill

went off with her best friend.

peal to the House of Lords.

cash and e second-hand Mini.

share of the £250,000 house where

day told she was entitled to a

A woman accused by her ex-



New drama head at BBC

Colin Adams, the BBC's northern broadcasting head, has been picked to fill the long-empty top spot in the BBC's drama depart-

Adams, who has been acting as head of the drama department along with director of production Alan Yentob for the last six months, has taken what some in the corporation have described as a poisoned chalice.

The BBC's last head of drama. Charles Denton, quit In May 1996 after overseeing a string of hits

such as Hamish Macbeth and Ballykissangel. However, the failure of expensive serials such as Rhodes - which cost £10m to make - Nostromo (above) and Ivanhoe has put the department under pres-

Insiders also say the role of drama head has become less attractive because of director general John Birt's latest restructuring of the BBC into Broadcasting and Production directorates

sure to come up with a hit

Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of the BBC board of governors, pointedly criticised the delay in appointing e drama head and some of the drama department's output in front of journalists earlier

Paul McCann

briefing

Earth followed through space by asteroid

As it orbits the sun, the Earth is being preceded through space by an asteroid the size of Islington – though scientists are confident there is no risk of it crashing in to us.

Known simply as 3753, the asteroid is about 5km (3.1 miles) across, and on an orbit inclined at 20 degrees to that of the sun and always it was discovered a decade and but scientific here are always to the sun and always it was discovered a decade and but scientific here.

planets. It was discovered a decade ago, but scientists have now worked out that its orbit is locked to the Earth's. As it moves ahead of us, its path relative to the Earth looks like a kidney bean, so that

of us, its path relative to the Earth looks like a kidney bean; so that it actually takes 150 years to return to exactly the same point in space. The closest approach to Earth happens every 385 years, when it is 40 times further away than the Moon.

"This behaviour is not unusual in itself," say the researchers, led by Paul Weigert at York University in Canton, Canada, in the science journal Nature. "What distinguishes 3753 from other near-Earth asteroids is to behaviour as it approaches Earth: our planet's gravitational pull acts to increase the asteroid's period from slightly below to slightly above one year."

below to slightly above one year.

The effect of that slowing effect on the asteroid's path is also to keep us alive: Our planet's gravitational pull makes the asteroid begin to fall behind the Earth's orbit, and it therefore moves away from Earth, avoiding a collision. Charles Arthur from Earth, avoiding a collision.

HOUSING

Property prices heading for boom

House prices climbed by more than 8 per cent in a year, though this rise disguised wide regional variations, according to official figures issued by the Land Registry yesterday. London notched up the sharpest increases, but Leicestershire, Dorset and

Northumberland were among other house price winners.
The figures for England and Wales compared the period
January to March 1997 with the same three-mouth period last
year. The average house price is £72,900 – up 8.6 per cent on the
January to March 1996 figure of £67,697.

Prices in parts of London. and the south-east have been soaring in recent months, partly as a result of property shortages. In the London borough of Camden, a detached house which would have cost an average of £375,000 early last year has rocketed to around £640,000.

The average price of a house in Greater London as a whole has burst through the six-figure barrier, reaching £107,900 - np 12.2 per cent on the January to March 1996 figure of £96,220.



ECONOMY

Regional earnings divide persists

The rich regions got richer and the poor ones poorer in 1995, according to the latest regional breakdown published by the Office for National Statistics.

Income per head in London was 25 per cent above the UK average, and 15 per cent above average in the rest of the sonth-east - both higher than two years earlier. By contrast, incomes in the north-east slipped to 85 per cent of the national average, and in Wales to 84 per cent. Northern Ireland, however, overtook the north-east, with incomes climbing from 86.4 per cent to 87.4 per cent of the average.

Social security benefits accounted for a bigger share of peoples incomes in Wales than in any other region, making up a lifth of total income per head. At the other extreme, benefits made up only 11 per cent of south-easterners' incomes.

HEALTH

HRT reduces risk of cataracts

Hormone replacement therapy for post-menopausal women may benefit the eyes as well as preventing brittle bones, researchers said yesterday. A study in Spain found a reduced incidence of lens opacity, a precursor of age-related cataract, in post-menopausal women taking oestrogen.

Cataracts, which cause clondiness and hardening of the lens of the eye, are a leading cause of blindness and affect 90 per cent of people aged over 75. Scientists have long suspected that female hormones may play e role in the development of age-related cataracts, since more women suffer from them than men. Scientists from the Ramon Castrovicjo Institute in Madrid

examined the eyes of 19 post-menopausal women taking oestrogen, 23 post-menopausal women not taking oestrogen, and 23 men. The researchers, whose findings were published in the American journal Ophthalmology, found that the women taking oestrogen had significantly less lens opacity compared with the other groups.

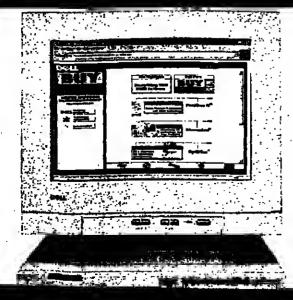
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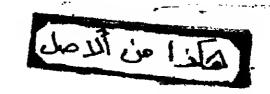
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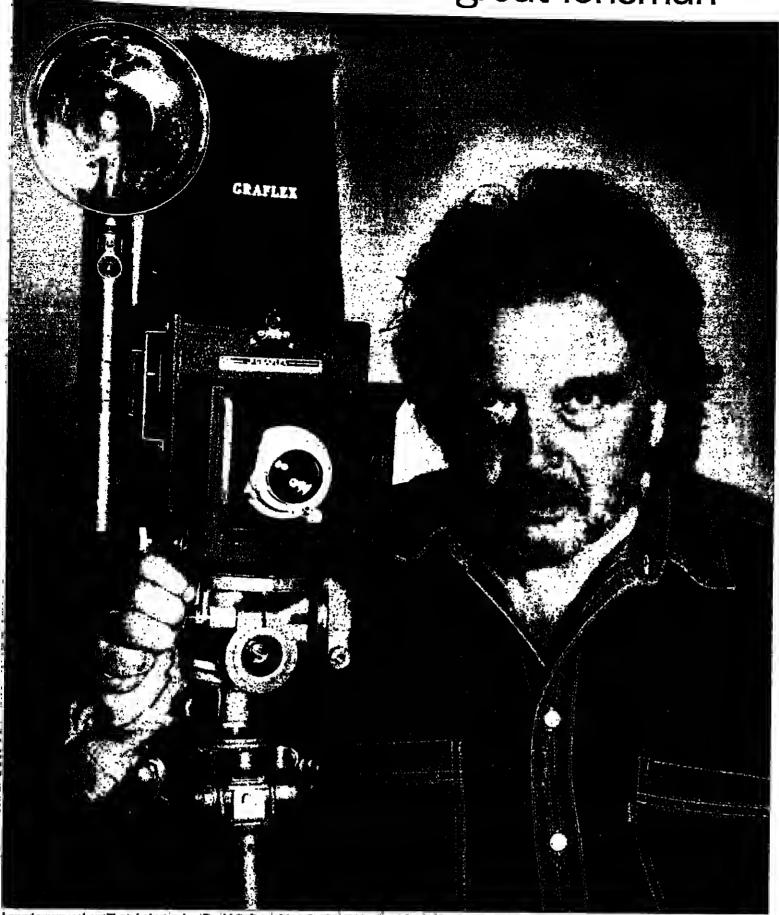
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Bailey's tribute to a great lensman

abile: Not



Lens to remember. The photographer David Bailey with a Graffex SLR, one of the of the favourite cameras of his friend the late Terence Donovan. The camera, estimate £120-180, will be auctioned with the rest of Donovan's cameras today at Christie's South Kensington Photograph: Nick Clark

Strange case of the million dollar actress and an indecent proposal

John Lichfield Pans

Arab princes, an American actress, call-girls, arms deals and secret agents... A routine investigation of de-luxe prostitution has brought French police and magistrates into dangerous diplomatic waters and uncovered a world straight from the pages of an airport novel.

The investigation, which began eight months ago, has revealed a call-girl network with tentacles around the globe and a clientele including Saudi princes, and other Gulf potentates, according to the newspa-per Le Monde. Several witnesses have spoken of the brokering of a \$1m sexual encounter in the South of France between an unidentified American actress and a member of a Gulf royal family.

The previous French govrnment placed a hrake on the investigation, apparently for fear of harming sales of military hardware to the Gulf. The new Socialist justice minister, Elisabeth Guigou, faces a tricky decision on whether to free the inquiry from its political shack-

The first signs are that the in-vestigation is already proceeding with renewed vigour. Earlier this week, the French vice squad arrested for questioning Paul Barril, a former gendarmerie captain, once on the security staff of the Elysée palace. Mr Barril, who now works for the



Pierre Barril, formerly on François Mitterrand's security staff at the Elysée, denies the accusations of involvement m a call-girl ring for which he

former Emir of Qatar, is accused of involvement with the call-girl ring. The vice squad also visited the Hotel Crillon, on the Place de la Concorde, where the ex-Emir has been living for several months.

Mr Barril, who ran a kind of dirty-tricks squad at the Elysée under President François Mitterrand, has angrily denied all involvement with prostitution. He says he is the victim of lies spread by disgruntled, former employees of the ex-Emir.

The investigation began last October with the routine bugging and phone-tapping of a suspected, top-class prostitution ring, operating from the 16th ar-

rondissement, one of the wealthiest quarters of Paris. The inquiry led to the arrest in January of a Swedish, former model, Annika Brumark, the apparent head of the organisation. Other arrests included a photographer. Jean-Pierre Bourgeois, who specialised in glamour shots for upmarket men's magazines and a Lebanese businessman called Nazihabdulatif Al Ladki.

Investigators seized diaries. records and address books with the names of young women, and their clients, from all over the world, from Britain to Indnnesia by way of the United States. Mr Al Ladki also revealed the names of other alleged clients. including Saudi and other Gulf princes. According to Le Monde, he told investigators that the service had been used for years by big business, especially the arms industry, as a way of sweetening contracts with

Arah states. Several witnesses spoke of the arrangement of a meeting at a "palace" in the South of France between a Gulf prince and an American actress, who earned \$1m, prompting comparisons with the film Indecem Proposal, in which a woman agrees to have sex with a superrich businessman for that same amount. Rumours of such a meeting have circulated for years hut they are now, according to Le Monde, being taken seriously by the judicial

Briton escapes draft into Foreign Legion

James Mellor

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LENG BENDEL farred the period

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The young Briton, seized at the Channel Tunnel terminal at Folkestone by French immigration officers investigating national service dodging, was re-

leased yesterday afternoon. Henry Tuson was arrested on Tuesday evening and detained at the La Citadelle barracks in Lifle, home of the 43rd Infastry Regiment, until a medical deemed him unfit to complete his military service. At the time of his detention he had just 15 pence in his pocket. According to a French em-

bassy spokesman he was released just after 3pm yesterday. The 22-year-old technical

translator, who works for Eurotunnel. was born in Dunkirk but moved to Britain when only three months old. He lives at present in Herne Bay, Kent and has a British passport as well as dual nationality.

French officials had argued that Mr Tuson's exemption papers, which should have been filed to them when he was 17,

ner of Mr Tuson's arrest lice to arrest a British subject on prompted outrage from his parents. John and Brigitte, and from the local MP, Roger Gale, who represents the Thanet

North constituency.

Mr Gale described the act as "kidnapping" and called for changes to the Channel Tunnel Treaty of 1987 which allowed French officers to detain Mr Tuson in Folkestone.

The treaty signed by Margaret Thatcher and François Mitterrand ceded a portion of Folkestone to the French and it was because the area was under joint Anglo-French jurisdiction that an arrest was possible.

However Mr Gale reacted furiously to the incident. "The whole situation is quite ridiculous. It is French bureaucracy

We have got to sort out this jurisdiction question. The con-cession that this part of the terminal would be viewed as French was granted in order to allow the policing of the Channel Tunnel. It was never inBritish soil and [in effect] kidnap him."

But Laurent Lemarchand, Deputy Press Counsellor at the French Embassy in London, de-

fended his country's actions.
"As a French citizen, Mr Tuson was expected to complete his military service or seek exemption. He was sent two letters and could have exempted himself but he failed to reply to

"This failure meant that he was put on the draft-dodge list in March 1994. On Tuesday evening the French police in Fulkestone told him that he had tn comply with his military obligations. He was not however

arrested. "At the harracks he went through an enlistment test and he was declared unfit. He was never under lock and key and he was even given some money to buy lunch."

The reason for Mr Tuson's medical unfitness will not be re-leased. M Lemarchand added the matter has been resolved."

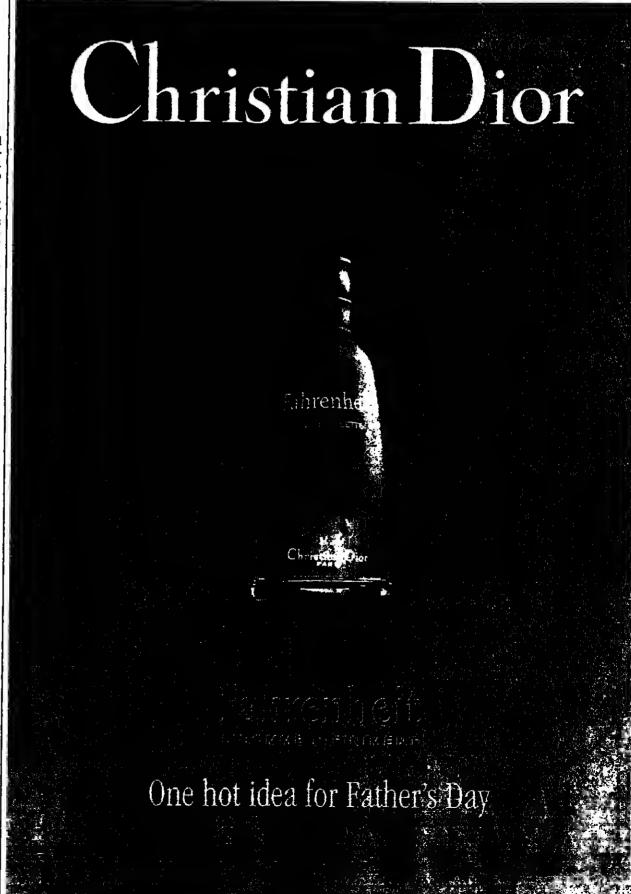
other such incidents of dual nationality draft-dodging in recent years although not in regard to

But Mr Tuson's father, John, 48, remained angry even after news of his son's release. "This boy only lived in France for the first three months of his life."

"There has never been any suggestion in the past that he should have done military service in France just because he was born there all those years ago. As far as Henry is concerned he's English - and proud

Mr Tuson's mother, Brigitte, revealed that she thought the matter of military service closed well before her son's arrest. She revealed that she had even taken legal advice on the matter.

A spokesman for the Foreign Office said: "We made our concerns known to the French Embassy as soon as the incident happened. We are pleased that



Cup that cheers and drives you mad

Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

Britain's favourite beverage is in the dock. The hot brown liquid drunk by over 30 million adults every day was this week blamed forfurning a sensible man dotty and leading him into moral turpitude.

Major David Senior, an army officer accused of fidding the books on rations allowances, told a court martial on Tuesday that his 20-year love affair with tea had affeded his judgement. He claimed to have drunk a gallon a day and said the caffeine in the brew had left him addicted.

Specialists yesterday concluded that Major Senior was consuming almost one gram of caffeine a day, three times more than the average tea or coffee drinker and sufficient to cause symptoms, including

coefficient to cause symptonis, including coefficient, anxiety and trembling.

Eas contains 40-50mg of caffeine in an average cup compared with 65mg in a cup of instant coffee and over 100 mg in ground coffee. Professor Vincent Marks, dean of medicine at the University of Surrey, said excessive caffeine consumption could lead to aberrant behaviour.



Going ape: A PG Tips chimpanzee. Does too much caffeine addle the brain?

"If I had been called as an expert witness in a similar case I would have advanced it as a plausible explanation. But talk of caffeine addiction is an abuse of the term. If you stop the caffeine, even at high levels, the worst you get is a headache.

Caffeine - "nature's stimulant" according to Professor Marks - is the world's most widely consumed mood-altering drug. In small quantities, it is almost certainly good users may suffer withdrawal symptoms. The for us, improving short-term memory. only cure is ... another cuppa.

boosting muscle power and increasing alertness. Tea, whether green or black, Chinese or Indian, taken with milk or without, also has protective effects against heart disease and cancer.

A group of north American Indians liv-

ing in Canada who chain-drink cups of tea were found to consume caffeine at the rate of one and a half grams a day without ill effects. Tolerance varies with anxious. nervy people most strongly affected and some, such as pregnant women, slower to metabolise it, so that with repeated doses, blood levels rise.

Doctors say that for most people up to 400mg a day of coffeine is unlikely to cause side-effects. But it is easy to exceed this level. Coffee contains more caffeine than tea and can be made stronger. The drug is also present in soft drinks and chocolate.

Three cups of ground coffee (115mg of caffeine each), a can of cola (40mg) and a 40z har of plain chocolate (80mg) would take a person over the 400mg limit. A study in the New England Journal of Medicine showed even moderate caffeine

Aitken admits to a lack of candour

Kim Sengupta

Former cabinet minister Jonathan Aitken yesterday admitted in the High Court that be had heen guilty of "lack of candour" over a £3.3m Saudi investment in the television com-

pany TV-am. Mr Aitken said he "very much regretted" that be had not disclosed the investment, by a company owned by Saudi normal, and if anything en-Prince Mohammed, to fellow couraged".

TV-am directors, its chairman Peter Jay, as well as the Independent Broadcasting Author-

Mr Aitken said be had "made mistakes" in some commercial transactions during his parliamentary career.

But he stated he was a prodtime when outside business interests were "considered

The one-time defence pro-currement minister and chief sec-cutary to the Treasury, said that Gordon Downey has recently the "pocket" of powerful Saucurement minister and chief secretary to the Treasury, said that in the climate of the Nolan and Downey investigations into "The climate changes. I MPs' conduct, he would have handled certain things differ-

ently. He told the court that outside uct of the political culture of the interests "were considered quite normal and, if anything, encouraged during my first 10 years as Member of Parliament. But he went on: "We now

said MPs should not bave any outside interests at all.

would certainly on something like the TV-am stake, have handled it quite differently if I was coming into it in today's cli-

Mr Aitken is suing the Guardian newspaper and Granada Television, makers of

di interests, pimped for Arabs, and took part in secret arms

George Carman, QC, for the Guardian and Granada, accused Mr Aitken of entering into a secret deal with Prince Mohammed's company to give

it control of TV-am. In 1981, Mr Aitken, an executive with Aitken Telecom-

munications Holdings Ltd (ATHL), signed an agreement under which Al Bidad, a company owned by Prince Mobammed and in which Mr Aitken was the managing director, invested £2.1m into

The money was used to buy into the fledgling TV-am, and over the years the Saudi company injected a total of £3.3m into the television company, the

is hearing the libel action without a jury, that the Saudis were given control of TV-am in re-

He claims the agreement giving them voting rights was "null and void, and never im-

Asked by Mr Carman how a co-director of Al Bilad - a Dr Somait - had believed that the agreement had given the Arab

Mr Aitken yesterday denied investors majority voting rights, to Mr Justice Popplewell, who and had indeed come into force, Mr Aitken claimed that the man was "confused both in law and language as to what had hap-

However, Mr Aitken did admit keeping the Saudi invest-ment concealed, and he told the court: "I agree I fell short of good candid business practice,

and I apologise for that." The hearing was adjourned until today.

A hard place for a protest as invaders raise the flag on Rockall

James Mellor

Rockall is a place-name known to few outside the keen band of followers of Radio 4's Shipping Forecast, but since yesterday it has taken on a new role - home to three Greenpeace protesters.

The minute outcrop of rock, which measures just 110 feet in diameter and rises to a peak of 65 feet, lies almost 300 miles off the western coast of Scotland at the centre of rich, developing oil fields in the Atlantic.

The campaigners, two men and a woman, were winched down from a helicopter on to the exposed rock on Tuesday evening, their actions a protest

Rock legends

I . Celtic legend says Rockell is the ast remnant of Brasil, the Western

by the Atlantic.

2. During World War I the rock was mistaken for the comming tower of a German U-Bost. l.a. German U-Boot.

3. In a Commons debate in 1971, Mr. William Ross, MP for Kilmannock, said: "More people have landed on the moon than have landed on Rockall."

4. In 1904 a Danish ship, Norge, was wrecked off the island with the loss of 600 lives.

5. During the Cold War, Rockall was viewed as a security risk. It

was viewed as a security risk, it was feared the Soviet Union would monitor missile tests from there.

6. Rockall is one of the 31 areas made famous by Radio 4's shire-

. In 1971, Lord Kennet said There can be no place more lesolate, despairing and auful." 8. Rockell was annexed by troops from HMS Vidal in 1955 as part of the preparations for a guided

tha preparations for a guided weepons training range.

9. In 1989, it was said that Hockail lay over an extinct volcano that acupted 50 million years earlier.

10. In 1955, Scotsman J Abrach Mackey claimed Rockail for his family. He said: "My old fatther Galmed that Island for the Claimed that Island for the Claimed were yet 1968 and 1 now demand. Mackey in 1846 and I now demand that the Admirelty hand it back. It's

at extended oil exploration in the area. The trio, named as Al. Peter, and Meike, bave been bolted to Rockall in a 12 foot by 6 foot survival capsule and have stated their intention of remaining there indefinitely.

A spokesman for Greenpeace said: "We bave asked the UK government to stop oil exploration in the Atlantic Frontier region and when they do they can have their rock back."

Al, 32. a protester from Newhaven, Sussex, added: "By seizing Rockall we claim her seas for the planet and all its peoples. No one has the right to unleash this oil into our threatened climate.

fer the same fate as fellow ecowarriors, such as those at Manchester Airport, and be prised from the rock. Yesterday the Government said that it has no intention of evicting the three from their new abode.

A spokesman for the Foreign Office told The Independent: Rockall is British territory. It is part of Scotland and anyone is free to go there and can stay as long as they please."

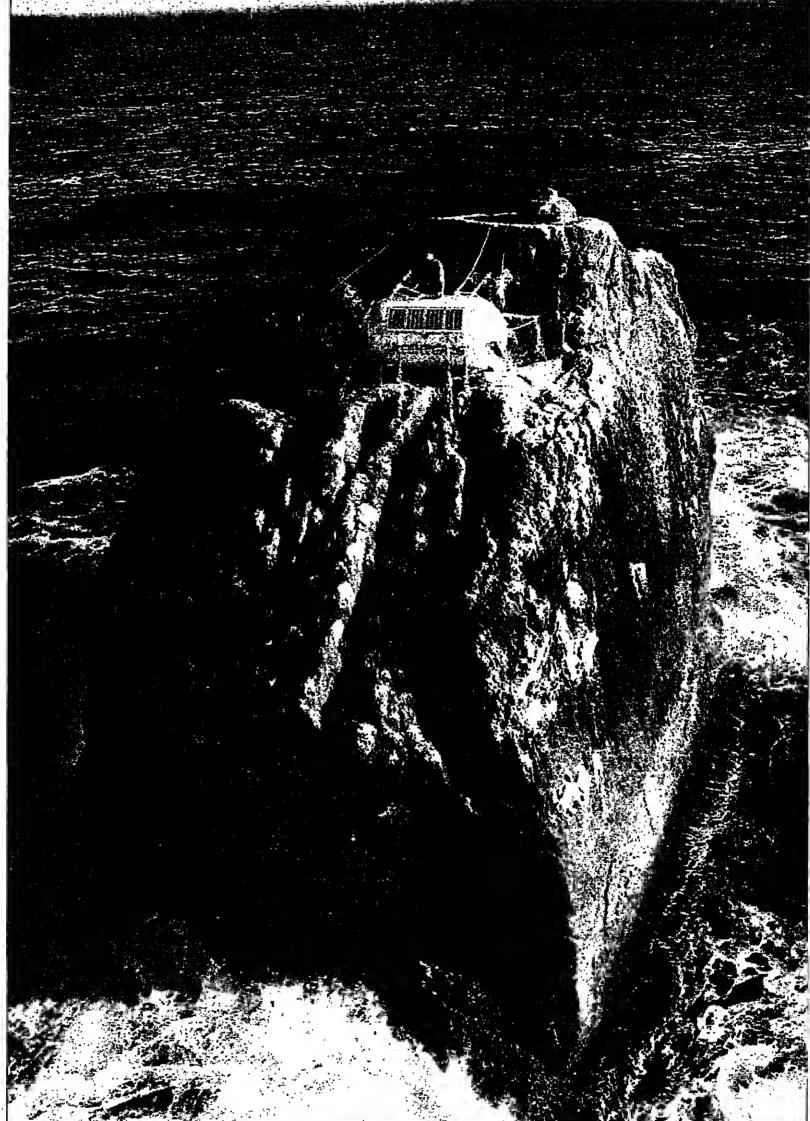
Nigel Scott, of Western Isles Council, who since 1975 have had jurisdiction over Rockall, said: "There is no obvious reason why we would feel obliged to interfere in what is happening. We have no powers to forcibly remove them and they do have rights to be there."

In another twist to coincide with the "invasion" of Rockall, Greenpeace warned Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, that unless she acted over their claims that the Government ignored EU directives protecting the area's marine eco-system, they would seek a judicial review from the High Court. A DTI spokesman said: "If Greenpeace take court ac-

tion we will deal with that." Rockall has long heen a source of territorial tensions between Britain, Ireland, Iceland and Denmark. Britain seized the bunk of volcanic rock in 1955 when Royal Marines planted the Union flag on the island. Before the arrival of the Greenpeace activists it has been uninhabited, save for the stay of a former SAS soldier, Tom Mc-Clean, who camped for 39 days on the rock. Britain is anxious to retain ownership, particularly since surveys have discovered valuable oil deposits in the Foinaven and Schiehallian fields close to the rock.

Under the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention, waters surrounding islands are the property of the controlling nation, but if the land mass is deemed uninhabitable and economically non-practicable, the land is defined as a rock and no control of nearby waters exists.

However Britain is not a signatory to this law. During recent tioned the British definition and raised tensions in the area. In 1992 two Irish brothers tried unsuccessfully to land on the rock and paint the Irish Tricolour on it while in 1994 a Cypriot vessel with an Ice-landic skipper was arrested by a Scottish Fisheries Protection



Appeal to ease beef ban quashed

EU scientists gave the thumbs down yesterday to Britain's appeal for a first easing of the beef ban. After weeks of deliberation the EU scientific veterinary committee returned a damning verdict on proposals tabled by the last agriculture minister Douglas Hogg for the resump-tion of beef exports from

healthy, grass-fed UK herds. The committee raised hopes that Northern Ireland farmers might meet the conditions for a return to trade but insisted it was up to Britain to make the case for separate treatment. something the last government repeatedly refused to do, fear-ing a backlash in Scotland.

The scientists expressed det misgivings about Britain's ability to implement a watertight system for tracing bealthy animals and criticised huge gaps in the information supplied by Maff. There were numerous 'imprecise statements" and "omissions" according to the re-port, while some claims are

dismissed as "simply not true". Guarantees that information on the movements of healthy cattle is reliable, or indeed that feed being used by British farmers is free from cattle remains, are absent, the report said:

The scientists also said that uncertainty remains about the possibility of BSE being transmitted from cows to their calves. Jack Cunningham the new Agriculture Minister is ex pected to come under intense pressure from Northern Ireland to go to Brussels to make the case for special treatment for Ulster, hased on the province's computerised cattle-tracing system, which is unique in the UK.

Franz Fischler, the EU agriculture commissioner, has repeatedly said he would consider such a plan, given the absence of a land border between Northern Ireland and Britain. His hand will be strengthened by the revelation yesterday that. the European Commission is to take four European governments to court for failing to take action to stamp out BSE.

The move appears to vindicate Mr Cunningham's claim that health precautions in other countries are weaker than in Britain. Mr Cunningham threatened to ban beef from the 10 countries which are defying scientific advice on the removal of offal.

France, Germany, Sweden and Spain bave officially been accused of failing to apply EU rules on rendering animal waste, which in some cases ends up as cattle feed. In a report to the European Parliament, only Britain and Luxembourg are giv en a clean bill of health.

So much for so little, so phone.

Greenpeace members, protesting at drilling in the north Atlantic, yesterday set up a survival capsule on Rockall

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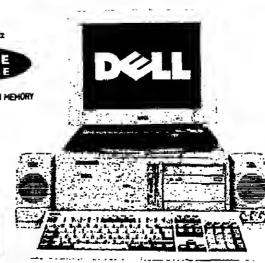
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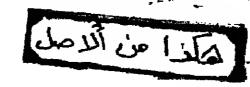
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BBC chief invites inquisition from MPs

Rob Brown Media Editor

BBC mandarins, eager to appear more publicly accountable and to counter suspicions harboured by ministers that they have succumbed to commercialism, announced yesterday that they are prepared to face an annual grilling in Par-

Sir Christopher Bland, the chairman of the BBC, invited the Sclect Committee on National Heritage to quiz him and his senior colleagues each autumn when the corporation

publishes its annual report. Sir Christopher also stressed that public-service values remain at the heart of the BBC as it approaches its 75th anniversary in October. This was obviously a reply to Chris Smith, the National Heritage Secretary, who has voiced concern about

creeping commercialism. Delivering a lecture to the Royal Television Society, Sir Christopher said the BBC's unique form of funding - the licence fee - conferred a special responsibility to service all sections of the community and preserve Britain's public service

On the question of accountability, he said: "It seems to me that the annual report might provide a useful and precise agenda for an autumn appearance by the BBC in front of the select committee, and that the resultant discussions might be usefully focused and constructive as a result."

The Consumers' Association warned vesterday that the BBC could find it increasingly difficult to defend the licence fee as the digital revolution unfolds and its own commercial activities expand.

In a report, the watchdog body called for a single regulator for the whole telecommunications sector, including television, radio, print media, telephone companies and the Post Office.

Benet Middleton a senior policy researcher with the association, said the BBC's commercial interests were not subject to any external scrutiny beyond Parliament.

The BBC's governors, he pointed out, "essentially police themselves".

A spokeswoman for the Department of National Heritage said yesterday that the Government has no plans to alter the way the BBC is regulated. But Labour did issue a pledge in its election manifesto to set up some type of "Ofcom" body alone the lines of the other watchdogs. "It is something that the Government is considering in terms of how to take it forward," she said.

Steven Barnett, senior lecturer in communications at the University of Westminster and a leading authority on the politics of hroadcasting, said: "Accountability has become the big buzzword in debates about the future of the BBC, but different people mean different things when they talk

He believes there should be a more democratic and open way of appointing and appraising the governors, but he is opposed to a single regulator, posing the critical question: "Who would guard the guards?"

Euro-MPs have approved new rules obliging television hmadeasters to ensure that at least 51 per cent of their output is of European origin "wherever practicable".

The directive, designed to stem a flood-tide of American shows and films, was hailed as a triumph by Labour MEP and media spokeswoman Carole Tongue, who predicted thousands of new jobs in the European television industry.





Then and now: Sixties' 'Coronation Street' icons Ena Sharples and Hilda Ogden (left) contrast with steamy Nineties' characters Kevin Webster and Nathalie Horrocks

Ena would never have a

Paul McCann Media Correspondent

The man the tabloids bave dubbed the mad axe murderer of Coronation Street pledged yesterday that he was going to stop killing off the TV soap's characters, only to see another long-serving actor resign be-

cause of changes to the show. Brian Park, who on his first day as producer of Coronation Street six months ago cut the wimpy Derek Wilton character from the show, has now seen 10 characters either jump or be pushed from the show.

The latest casualty was actor Bill Waddington, 81, who played the eternally grumpy Percy Sugden. Mr Waddington pleased the tabloids, and probably boosted ratings, yesterday by claiming he was leaving be-cause the show now contained too much sex.

"Hand on heart, there will be no more axings for at least a year." Mr Park said yesterday before Mr Waddington's announcement. "It is difficult to tell people that you are not renewing their contract but it is not personal."

The reason for the butchery. which has also seen the characters Mavis Wilton, Don Brennan and Andy McDonald wiped

from the credits, has been ITV'S decision to drag Coronation Street into the 1990s.

In recent months, the show has been level-pegging with its BBC rival EastEnders, but in the long term the show's audience is in decline. It also suffers from an ageing audience – 40 per cent of its regular viewers are over 55 - which is a turn-off for advertisers and means its au-

dience is dying off. There was also a feeling that

the show had been fatally weakened by losing three important characters - barmaids Bet Gilroy and Racquel, and Reg Holdsworth.

Last November, when Coronation Street trailed EastEnders by a million viewers for the first showing and by five million when EastEnders' Sunday omnibus was taken into account, the tabloids used the five million figure to justify a series of "Corrie in decline" stories.

Now that something bas been done about that supposed decline, they are hranding Mr Park the "assassin of the Street". I was brought in to bring the

show into the next millennium and to secure our status as number one," Mr Park told the Daily Mirror yesterday, underneath a picture of Freddy Krueger, the murderer from the Nightmare on Elm Street films. However, he said that there

in plot: "Emily Bishop will not be shooting up smack, but the Street has been in stasis for too

As well as extra sex. Mr Park has tinkered with the balance between Coronation Street's comedic storylines and its hard drama plots so that there is more drama - only in the early 1990s did Coronation Street move from Granada's light entertainment department to its would be a limit to the changes drama division.

He also plans to copy East-Enders' strategy of milking sto-

rylines for longer. Next month sees the introduction of the first major new family to the street for years the Battersbys, dubhed the neighbours from hell but who crucially include some more young characters to appeal to younger viewers.

There are also plans to introduce the Street's first Asian family later in the year.

INVESTOR

More trouble at the opera

Jojo Moyes

Britain's two main opera houses arc in crisis, it emerged yesterday as an inquiry was launched into the Arts Council's relationship with the Royal Opera House, and the general director of the English National Opera revealed he had tried

to resign over budget cuts. The future of both organisations was said to be in question because of financial and operational pressures. The Royal Opera House has been plagued with problems in its £214m refurbishment.

Launching the inquiry, Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary said that with £78m of lottery money involved he wanted to be sure the scheme was carried out "with probity".

The news came after Arts Council secretary general Mary Allen's appointment last month as chief executive of the Royal Opera House. She replaced Genista McIntosh, who resigned only 18 weeks into the job, ap-

parently through ill health. Arts Council chiefs were unhappy Ms McIntosh was replaced without the post being advertised. They asked Ms Allen to leave her Arts Council job immediately to avoid any implication of a clash in responsi-

bilities. The ROH is an independent body, but because of its levcl of public funding the Arts Council has an interest in the

way it is run. Lord Gowrie, who stands with the former camp, has pubicly described the ROH's plans for the Royal Opera and the Royal Ballet during redevelopment as "a shambles"

Meanwhile Dennis Marks, the ENO's general director, revealed that he had submitted his resignation in March, after being asked to implement costcutting to reduce the ENO's £4m deficit.

The ENO is said to be in financial trouble, despite an El I.9m Arts Council grant, and has applied for £3m of emergency lottery money from the Arts Council.

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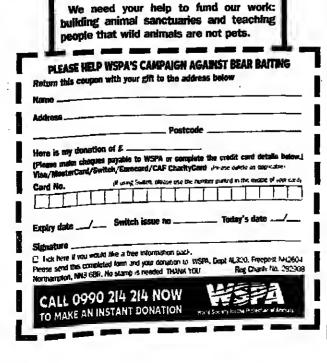
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adults their owners can no longer cope, and

The monks are kind and do their best, but

they are not trained zookeepers. They put

the animals in cages and feed them... and

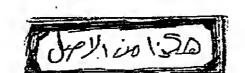
The World Society for the Protection of

Animals rescues these animals. Wherever

wild and return them to natural habitats.

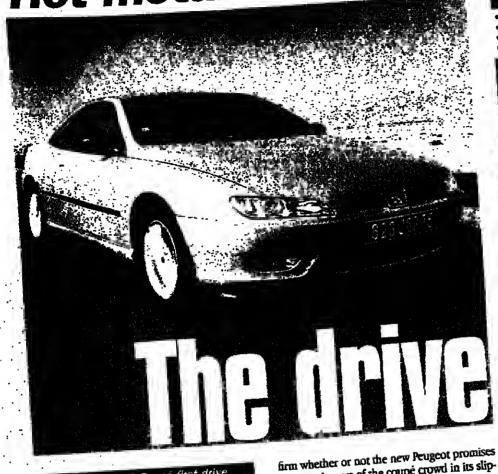
lible, we prepare them for life in the

'donate' them to Buddhist monasteries.



Coupé de grâce.

Hot metal



to leave the rest of the coupé crowd in its slip-

stream when it arrives oo these shores in June. At this point, it wouldn't be unreasonable to expect a snag coocerning the price. But before crossing the Coupé off your 'musthave' list, take note: this desirable machine can be yours for less than \$20,000. As Peugeot points out, this sort of pricing won't just tempt curreot coupé customers, but also ambitious executives and go-get-em types who are fed up with their hi-spec saloons and fancy a change.

Your £19,480 will buy the entry-level 2.0litre, four-cylinder model, which to the eye isn't that different from the more expensive \$25,780, 3.0-litre, V6 SE. Both have full headturning potential, thanks to that stunning body designed by Pininfarina.

We've eagerly awaited many a new car launch, but this is one we've looked forward to with terrific anticipation. Just the thought of getting behind the wheel had us going

weak at the knees. So when we finally got the opportunity to take the 406 Coupé for a spin, we simply had to go the whole hog and sample arguably the most-wanted model, the fiery V6-equipped version. Visually it could almost be a baby Ferrari,

which shouldn't come as any surprise since the Pininfarina design house was also responsible for penning the range-topping Prancing Horse, the 456 GL Furthermore, the new Peugeot doesn't share any body panels with the current 406 saloon, and ends up 70mm longer. No matter where you stand and from what

angle you view it, the Peugeot is a delight to behold. Indeed, we'd hedge our bets that it will go down as a future classic of the company's range.

Swing open the long, frameless doors, slip yourself into the leather-clad cabin and you'll quickly be oodding in approval. The dashboard







may follow the well-proven 406 formula, with a solid feel and fuss-free layout, but a little more attention reveals a few loving touches here and there which give the Coupé a special feel com-

pared to its salooo counterpart. A graphite finish around the air vents and gearstick plus fetching chrome-ringed dials liven things up, while lavish leather and big Recaro bucket seats - standard on the V6 certainly make you feel your \$25,780 is money well spent.

Throw in air-conditioning, a superb 10speaker stereo and a fully adjustable electric front seat and it's obvious this Peugeot is tread-

ing un-comfortably heavily on BMW's toes. It may be the most lusted-after coupé, but that doesn't stop it from being a practical propositioo too. Peugeot says it's a full fourseater, and it's not fibbing. Pull a tab on the outside of the front seat and the chair slides forward electrically, allowing easy access to the rear. Tip the seat back into place and it returns to its original setting. Even so, there's plenty of legroom in the back and two adults will be able to sit in relative comfort over a long distance.

Another pleasant surprise comes when you lift the boot lid. This is one coupé which doesn't force you to compromise your luggage load every time you go away.

It's from the driver's seat that all the action takes place, though. Fire up Peugeot's latest 3.0-litre V6 engine, developed in coojunctioo with Citroën and Renault, and as it settles to a solid growi you know you're in for a treat.



With 191bhp oo tap at 5,500rpm, and 267Nm of torque at 4,000rpm, the Coupé is easily quick enough. It sprints up through its fivespeed manual gearbox oo the way to 60mph in eight secoods, and heading on towards a claimed 144mph top speed with ease.

It sounds the part as you go, too, with a creamy-smooth engine note that will have you purposely changing down a gear to emphasise the purt. You doo't need to keep shifting down the box to overtake, though, as the engine has plenty of pulling power that sees it haul past slower traffic with minimal fuss.

Impressive

With a lowered ride height and slightly firmer suspension settings, you might expect comfort to suffer. But, as with the 406 saloon, the ride is impressive, with excellent body control and good bump absorption. There's still a fair amount of roll through the corners, but this never spoils things and, as ever, the 406 Coupé is a delight to drive hard.

That's especially true when you back it all up with the new braking system, developed in conjunction with Brembo. The reassuring-feeling pedal activates outstanding stopping power.

All in all, the new 406 Coupé is an absolute stunner. It looks divine, drives superbly and has quality and comfort levels to worry the likes of BMW

Like we said, grab that chequebook, go to your dealer and get ready for the drive of your life.

ISTEN very carefully to what we're about to tell you. Pick up your chequebook (or your company's chequebook), head to

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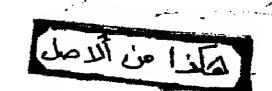
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British artist's Holocaust memorial will not go ahead

David Lister

The British artist Rachel Whiteread disclosed last night that the holocaust memorial she has designed for Vienna may never be installed

The 34-year-old former Turner Prize-winner said that a weh of pulitical in-fighting had stalled the project.

Some politicians in Austria did not want a holocaust memorial. Others opposed Ms Whiteread because she is not Jewish. Others said the metaphor of the piece - a concrete cast of a library of hooks ignored working-class victims and concentrated only on in-

Speaking at the Venice Bi-ennale, Ms Whiteread told The Independent last night: "It is all of these things. I am very angry. I cannot now see it going ahead. It is a bitter disappointment."

Her disclosure threatened to take the gloss off the biggest night of her career as she became the first woman to represent Britain with a solo show at the Biennale.

She said that winning an international competition to design Austria's holocaust memorial had been rendered all

tellectuals. Others wanted the piece moved away from the proposed site in the nld Jewish ghetto of Vienna.

> She has nearly finished the installation, a concrete cast of a ghostly library representing Hitler's attempted destruction of a people and its culture. It was to he placed in the Judenplatz in Vienna's old Jewish ghetto, and was supposed to open last year, then this year,

> and then next June. Ms Whiteread said last night: "No one from Austria has spo-

ken to me for six months. I absolutely refuse to move the piece to another site. It has to be site-specific. You cannot design by consensus."

Ali o Wal

Her main installation at the Biennale, Ten Tables implying endless hureaucratic meetings, shaped in what one critic termed a "Kafkaesque layout", was a poignant comment on the last two years.

One room of the British Pavilion at the Biennale contains a rubber and polystyrene cast of a bath; in another is a cast from a mortuary slab. The main room contains plaster casts of 10 tables arranged in a rectangle. A separate gallery has

shelves. Whiteread was the talk of the Biennale last night as the British Pavilion last night demonstrat-

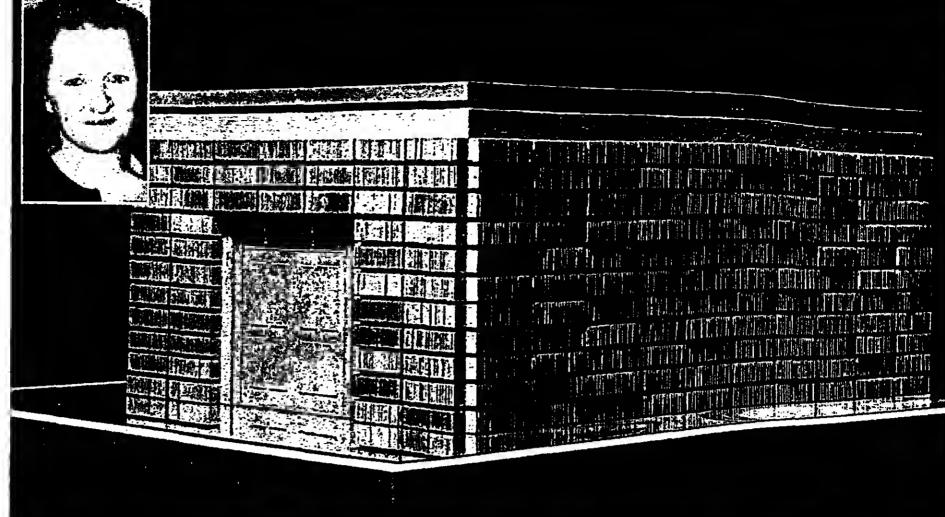
a plaster cast of a wall of book-

Council threw a reception in her honour and international gallery directors came to see her

Imponderable to some, but conjuring memory and symbolism to others, the Whiteread show also hinted at a deeper controversy affecting her and the world of arts and politics.

giving the work a sense of liquidity. Whiteread is one of the most controversial and challenging sculptors of her generation, ex-Other rooms in the British

citing both in admiration and irritation. On the night she won the £20,000 Turner Prize in 1993 she also found herself being presented with a £40,000 award for the "Worse Body Of Work Of The Year" at the gates of the Tate Gallery by the K Foundation, a group of protesters led by some affluent former pop stars. She gave the



Future uncertain: The design for Vienna's Holocaust memorial, by the British artist and Turner Prize-winner, Rachel Whitread (inset)

12-year-old Manx girl is spared return to island jail

Crime Correspondent

The 12-year-old girl at the centre of the child-jailing furore on the Isle of Man admitted in court yesterday to seven assaults and five cases of criminal damage, but escaped further imprisonment after her lawyer pleaded for understanding.

blonde hair in a pony tail, next to her case worker, rushing to chat and hug her aunt and mother during breaks in the

She was given a conditional discharge yesterday and was returned to the island's chil-The girl, who cannot be dren's home were she is under named for legal reasons, was 24-hour supervision from two

Douglas by two prison officers. cial services are expected to try She sat in court, with her long and find a secure establishment on the mainland where she can receive counselling.

The disclosure that the girl spent seven days in a juvenile annexe at the island's only prison has caused outrage. Under Manx law, children as young as 10 can be jailed at Victoria Road prison in Douglas. The mother of the 12-year-

der, said in court that it was "disgraceful" her daughter had been locked in the prison and said she was "messed up".

Her daughter admitted to a series of offences mostly against staff at the children's home between March and June. They included kicking a worker in the mouth and shins causing bleed-ing and bruising, and locking another person in the stomach.

cidents of assaulting staff, in which she spat, swore and hit out, as they tried to control her.

Her case worker, Rose Banell, said the girl had been in care for almost two years and there had been two failed attempts to place her with foster

Her advocate, Terence Mc-Donald, argued: "This is a child who we all accept has difficul-

ties and having a [criminal] record is not going to help her go into the world."

He added: "This is a chapter that is going to live with her for the rest of her life."

Chairman of the Bench, Malcolm Hartley, said that although the offences were "severe", in view of "circumstances" he had decided to give her a discharge on the condition she did not re-

life hut it requires your co-operation. Outside court, Mr McDonald

ed her hypnotic sense of space.

light and the effects of water. In

a gallery overlooking one of

slabs of translucent green resin

cast from floorboards, the light

reflecting off the canal and

Venice's canals she placed nine

said: "I feel recent events have moved the authorities to think very hard about funding alternative accommodation for these children other than sending them to prison.

offend again in the next 12 chairman reprimanded police whether to bring a charge.

months. He told her: "We want for charging a 15-year-old boy you to have a long and happy with drinking a bottle of lager in public. Mr Hartley said the boy who had no previous related offences and was not drunk.

should have been cautioned. The case follows criticism of the the Isle of Man police for taking a gung-ho attitude to bringing charges, particularly against juveniles. Unlike in In another case, the court Britain the Many police decide

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Dobson fights over free prescriptions

Chief Political Correspondent

Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, made it clear that cuts in free NHS prescriptions for pensioners would be "over my dead hody", in spite of Treasury pressure for a comprehensive review of all govcrument spending.

Announcing a year-long re-view yesterday in the Commons, Alistair Darling, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, refused to rule out cuts in free prescriptions when he was chal-

THEMES OF THE DAY

MP Dennis Skinner over re-ports which alarmed pensioners' groups including Age Concern.

Mr Darling said: "We have made it clear all aspects have to be examined. It would be quite wrong to exclude problems in relation to prescription charges where there are anomalies, where one illness is recognised for a free prescription and other are not. The Secretary of State for Health will be looking

However, Mr Dobson made it clear earlier that while he prescriptions when he was chal-lenged by the left-wing Labour would carry out the wide rang-ing review demanded by the

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

THE LEADERS TACKLE BLAIR

- Mildenhall and Lakenheath Airbasss (Rhitish Spring: C. West Suitolk)
- The Conservative leadership contast (Natrita Linton, Lab. Battarsea)
- The Private Finance Initiative (Lan Flassoni, Lab. Dridley S.)
- Scottish devolution and the Claim of Right (Ray Michie, LD. Angyle and Bute)
- Land ownership rules in Scotland (Manualle Ewing, SNP: Moray)

Managed to ask most of his question, sim-; Spring accosed Labour of anti-Amply poking fun at the Toner, method of licent and anti-NATO sentiments;

HE UNANSWERED QUESTION

THE CREEP OF THE DAY

Treasury, cuts in free prescriptions to pensioners would be poor out increasing budgets. litically unacceptable. He told

officials it would only go through "over my dead body". Uoderlining the thoroughness of the review, ministers have been ordered to look at selling off public assets which are not needed with a view to to reallocating the sums raised to public spending where it is "needed most". The Department of Health is one of the Whitehall ministries which is being forced to "think the unthinkable" by Gordon Brown,

Other cash-raising ideas being looked at include road pricing and road tolls which could raise revenue and cut traffic in towns, helping to meet the tough anti-pollution targets set by John Prescott, the Secretary of State for Environment and Transport.

Hotel charges could he introduced in hospitals to raise money from NHS patients who wish to pay for better privatestyle rooms, with more private the Chancellor, in the search for charge for providing private its conclusions will inform a new

televisions and telephones to patients.

The review will look at the possibility of raising more money through charges for visiting art galleries and museums.

Library charges could be included in the year-long review, and new taxes on town-centre car parks could be studied to persuade more commuters to use public transport.

Mr Darling said: "The review will be thorough and far-reaching. All departments and all ministers will be involved. It will facilities. Hospitals already take 12 months to complete and

set of public spending plans for the rest of this Parliament. It will think about introducing three

take the long-term view." Kenneth Clarke, the former chancellor, said the review was "all smoke and mirrors" to allow the Government to raise spending and taxes.

Alan Simpson, secretary of the left-wing Campaign Group of Labour MPs, said he would welcome a hypothecated tax for the NHS, but he signalled there would be unrest in the party if more radical charges were introduced for public services. "Charging is the least efficient

measures in his Budget: lift the ceiling on National Insurance contributions; double National Insurance levels for those earning over £100,000 a year; and change employers' National Insurance Contributions to a fixed percentage of gross profits."
There is the central dilemma

facing the Labour government and there are contradictions in our policies which we are going to have to face up to sooner or later. If we want a flexible workforce, we will have to restore a way to raise taxes," he said. "I universally-based welfare."

Randeep Ramesh and Nicholas Schoon

The fiefdom of John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister. came into view yesterday when the Government announced that the Department of Transport and the Department of Environment would merge.

Known from next Monday as the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, the move reflects Mr Prescott's desire for civil servants in the two sections to work

more closely together. The first victim of the new set-up is, as predicted by The Independent last week, Sir Patrick Brown, Permanent Secretary at

the Department of Transport.

Ministers decided the new "superministry" run by the Deputy Prime Minister required only one top manager. The new position is likely to be filled by Andrew Turnbull, Permanent Secretary at the De-

partment of the Environment. The Department of Transport came into being in 1976 as a separate ministry. The Conservatives beefed up its remit in the Eighties by adding to it shipping and aviation from Trade and

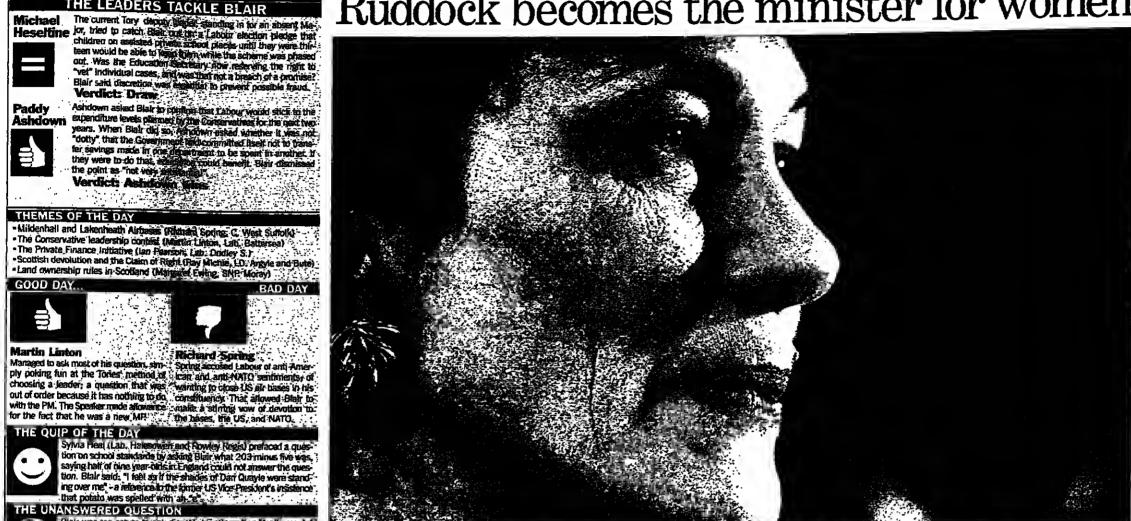
Industry. Many observers say the transport ministry was always likely to be swallowed up by other de-partments. With most of its industries - rail, shipping and aviation - now in the private sector, ministers looking for more savings would have found the DoT at the top of their list.

The new super-department began consulting on its plans for Regional Development Agencies yesterday.

These are intended to boost development and competitiveness, attract investment and help small businesses in the English regions when they start operating in 1999.

In a slim consultation paper, the department says it wanted views on whether the agencies should be involved in marketing the regioo, training people, giving grants and loans to husinesses, purchasing derelict land and readying it for development and, controversially, planning and even building transport infrastructure, including roads. Leading article, page 21

Ruddock becomes the minister for women



Joan Ruddock: 'Has a strong record on women's issues and wilt play a key role in our work,' said her new boss Harriet Harman Photograph: John Voos

Blair was too asture to risk disaster by attempting Heal's mental arithmetic under the pressure of the hear long question session. He said in mitigation. Stie and I both know the answer to it, so there's no need. Tony Blair has appointed a Minister for Women, it was announced yesterday, reversing a decision made just weeks ago that Harriet Harman should do the joh in addition to her duties as Secretary of State for Social Security, writes Fran Abrams.

still be in charge of women's issues, she will supported by Joan Ruddock, the member for

Lewisham Deptford. However, it emerged that she will be working for free as she will not draw her minister-

Although Ms Harman will ial salary. The limit for the Cabinet committee papers to asnumber of ministers on the payroll has been reached.

The Department of Social Security already has a special unit for womeo and its head is to chair a ministerial committee on the issue. She will also see all

sess their impact on women.

Ms Harman's staff have argued that her strong commitment to women's issues would ensure that they remained high

Ms Ruddock was an envi-

the election. Ms Harman said: "Joan has a strong record oo women's issues. She will play a key role in our work."

ronmeot spokeswoman in op-

position, but had not been giv-

en a government joh following

Polly Toyobee, page 23

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Clarke and Redwood turn on Hague

All o' lual.

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

The deep and cold anger of the Tory leadership contest broke surface yesterday with Ken-neth Clarke and John Redwood making direct attacks on

William Hague.
Mr Clarke told the BBC Ra--dio 4 Today programme that the party should "come to its senses" and decide how best to confront a Labour government with an overwhelming majority.

"William one day could play
a leading role," the former
chancellor said. "I anticipate he's ready for a very big role in Opposition." But he theo added: "People have to judge: can he develop the style, the personality, the views which make him the natural, next Conservative prime minister in this country. Mr Clarke's evident view was that Mr Hague had neither the style, person-ality, nor views, to qualify him for that high office.

But that attack was later trumped by Mr Redwood, after his campaign manager, lain Duncan Smith, had told a Com-

mons press conference that his man was standing on a clear-cut platform of "bonesty, deceocy and integrity."

When Mr Redwood was asked how that description dis-tinguished him from Mr Clarke and Mr Hague, he said pointedly: "I have never said that they lack decency. His supporters laughed at the imputation.

He then explained his attack on their honesty and integrity, adding: "I am saying that the party as a whole, in 1992, made a whole series of statements and promises which turned out to be "I am a charitable man. I will

assume that they were all made in good faith. Events, shall we say, confounded those statements. I would like us to be a lot more contrite about what events did." Specifically, Mr Redwood said: In order to win again, we

must first re-establish our reputation for telling the truth. "In 1992, we said we were the party of low taxation; we turned out to mean we were the party for putting up taxes. We said we

ing to put VAT nn fuel. We said we would stand by mortgage-interest tax relief, but it turned out

halve it. We said we were the party that wanted a Europe of Nations, then it turned out we were the party that wanted to that we meant we were going to sign a federal treaty.

"We said we were the party that would stand by the NHS, and then we said we were the party that wanted to close Bart's and many other hospitals. We

the spring, and many people went on to lose their jobs, their homes, their businesses, their hopes. We have to say sorry. We

have to say that in future we will say less than we intend to de-liver. We have to say what we mean and mean what we say." That deliberate acceptance of Redwood returning to the fray yesterday. He said the party must re-establish its reputation for teiling the truth in order to be re-elected

Photograph:Adrian Dennis

the successful attack made by Tony Blair against the Conservative leadership in last month's election was intended to disuoguish Mr Redwood from the other two contenders for the leadership. The slur could not have been clearer.

Speaking later on the Jimmy Young radin programme, Mr Clarke warned that the party would ignore grassroots anger over MPs' behaviour at its peril. "This thing must not be set-tled by a whole lot of deals on jobs," he said,
"The voluntary party is fed

up, sick to the teeth, with the behaviour of the parliamentary party before the election ... The parliamentary party should have a look at what the public thinks of us."

would not increase VAT, and Aye to swipe cards may spell no for division lobby

Chief Political Correspondent

MPs may be able to vote by using swipe cards in the future, under far reaching reforms to the Victorian habits of the Commons now being studied by a

cross-party committee of MPs. MPs have voted for more than a century by walking past tellers in chairs stationed at the end of the division lobbies for the "ayes" and the "noes".

The sheer weight of Labour's majority has slowed down counting in the division lobbies, with delays while more than 400

ing off the MPs' names are still home. But that is unlikely. Even trying to put names to the new faces who have arrived in the Commons since 1 May.

To ease the congestion and bring the Commons into the electrooic age, the MPs are looking at ways of speeding up the voting system using new technology.

It would be possible to install buttons on the green leather Commons beoches to allow MPs to vote without getting out of their seats, like the audience in BBC Television's Question

But Ann Taylor, the Leader of the Commons, yesterday gave a clear hint that she favours combining electronic advances with the old tried and

David McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

The Northern Ireland Secretary,

Mo Mowlam, yesterday used

her first Commons question

session as a minister to try to in-

vest new momentum into both

ber contacts with republicans and the multi-party talks. She signalled to Sinn Fein

that she would sanction one

tested system, which forces ministers to go through the di-vision lobbies with humble backbenchers.

A swipe card would enable the MPs to speed up the divisions, without depriving backbenchers of their regular contact with their ministers.

Mrs Taylor told a Parliamentary press gallery luncheon: "I personally think there is a lot of advantage in voting through a lobby where you have to meet other colleagues and ministers cannot get off the book, but that doesn't preclude speeding up the process and some kind of

MPs squeeze through the tellers' chairs.

The delays have been made worse because the clerks ticka modernising Government recognises the dangers of allowing MPs too much time off to do their plotting away from

the Palace of Westminster. Mrs Taylor also opposed forcing MPs to end all their outside earnings, an idea raised by the Parliamentary Ombuds-man. Sir Gordon Downey, but rejected by the Nolan Committee, oo the grounds that it would create a political élite with no outside interests.

She also rejected suggestions that such a move would lead to MPs being compensated with a huge increase in their salaries. She said MPs had voted to have their salaries linked to civil servants.

other meeting is likely but that will be it." At the same time, however, she made what will be

seen as a response to the re-

publican request for a time-

frame for the multi-party talks.

bitious time-scale, she indicat-

ed that she hoped political negotiations could be complet-

ed, and confirmed by a referendum, by May of next year. Such a timetable would clearly

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more clarificatory meeting beinvolve a transformation in tween her officials and repubboth the pace and level of licans, and would not be drawn agreement of the multi-party talks, which in their first year into a protracted process of such contacts. She declared: "Anhave not even produced an The Northern Ireland Sec-retary also said she hoped the participants in talks could settle the contentious issue of the decommissioning of illegal weapons "in the next couple of

Mowlam seeks

talks progress

stantive negotiations in September. These projections mean that the next few weeks could be crucial to making progress. Ms Mowlam appeared to say to republicans that only one more meeting is on offer before the Government reverts to the position that it will not meet re-

weeks", and then move on sub-

publicans directly. It could also be make-orbreak time for the talks, with an intensive period of activity which will either resolve the decommissioning issue or, nt worst, herald a partial break-

Cambridge dons fight to protect green outlook

It's the Cambridge equivalent of "Not In Our Back Yard". Fellows at the University's oldest college, Peterhouse, are at war with their next-door neighbours in the Fitzwilliam Museum, whose proposed extension would they claim, destroy their

The 40-odd academics believe that if the £11m extension goes ahead, their time-honoured afternoons spent reading and taking tea in the Fellows' Garden would never be the same again. The "big block" would be "intrusive", would "overpower" the garden and obscure the view

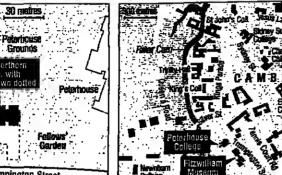
The Master of Peterhouse, Sir John Meurig Thomas, and the governing body have lodged protests against the plans for the northern extension, which is set back 1.5 metres from the wall which divides the two institutions. More than 3,300 dons and senior administrators will be balloted on the issue next month.

Professor Christopher Calladine, the senior fellow of Peterhouse, will be voicing his objections. "Everyone with a garden and a neighbour is likely to object to the neighbour's huilding coming right up to the wall, when it previously dido't." he said.

"At the moment, if we stand in the Fellows' Garden, we see the hig block of the museum in the distance, about 60ft beyond

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the wall. The new proposed northern extension will bring the northern extremity of the museum right up to practically the wall. It will be a big block of huilding overshadowing our

However, Professor Calladine insisted that Peterhouse's main objection was a "moral" one. The land on which the mu-

David Watkin, an architec-

Peterhouse, said: "It is a Grade

One listed building. It deserves

There's a Great Deal going on

the huilding designed by seum is huilt was originally sold George Basevi, a protégé of Sir John Soane, in 1834, with a gito the university by Peterhouse in three stages. Building on the north side was "against the spiril" of the last sale in 1915. ant classical-style portico commanding The availability of land to the south of the museum also meant there was an alternative tural historian and fellow of

The extension would involve cutting into the northern wall of to be respected, oot mutilated."

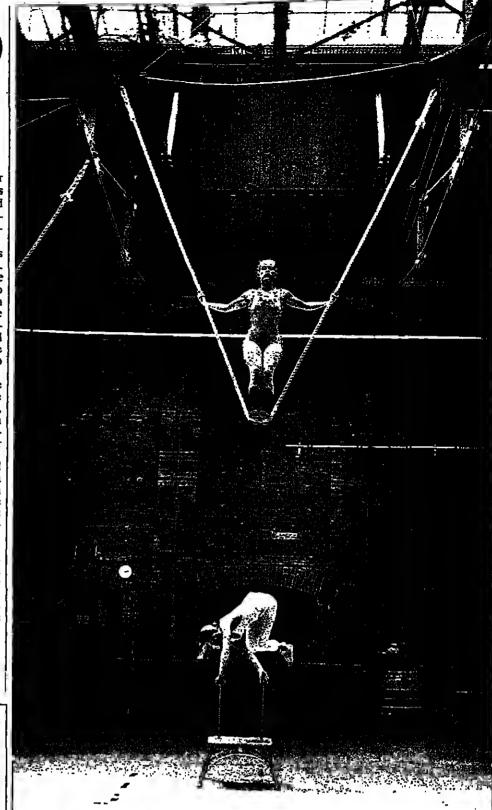
of the Fitzwilliam Museum, is keen that the museum should provide the public with the services of a "late-20th century mu-

He beliews that Peterhouse's objections are garden-based.
"The first problem the college has is that they don't want to look at it," he said. "From there they are going on, quite naturally, to saying that ex-tending a Grade One listed building is a very sensitive issue and we should not be adding to the original huilding.

Caroline Elam, editor of the Burlington Magazine, the monthly art history journal, and member of the Fitzwilliam syndicate, believes that even Basevi would have been in favour of the extension.

Basevi himself was well aware that additions to north and to south of the Fitzwilliam might prove desirable, as his drawing of 29 June 1836 makes clear," she wrote to the University Vice-Chancellor.

She went on to put her case: The proposed northern extension in its modified form is modest in scale and deliberately reticent in character ... The architect, John Miller, is particu-larly well-known for his sensitivity to the needs of historic buildings: his work at the Whitechapel Art Gallery not only won prizes, but, perhaps more importantly, continues to look good and function well."



Balancing act: Acrobats at the launch of the Metier organisation, which offers nationally recognised qualifications for creative people

Bodysurfing fish put quotas in their plaice

Science Editor

Attempts to set European fishing quotas could face a new problem: the discovery that plaice like bodysurfing.

A new electronic tagging system has discovered that fish can swim enormous distances around the North Sea by using undersea currents. These offshore currents, created by the movement of the tides, help fish to travel up to 10 times further than had been thought.

Standard tagging systems at-tach a plastic tag to a fish and then record where the fish is subsequently caught. On this basis, plaice might appear to move just 55 miles (88km) in 56 days.

and Aquaculture Science, in ing that period, the fish actual of managing cod stocks in the ly ranged up and down the east coast of Britain, covering

a total distance of 900km. This finding has important implications for attempts to set quotas to preserve fish stocks. Julian Metcalfe, the scientist

who led the research, said: "It does mean if you wanted to

close areas from fishing, to protect the stocks, you would also have to close areas around it." Cod and other species take advantage of the tidal drift, say

the scientists, whose work is re-

ported today in the science

oped by the Governmeot's Cen-stream are fast, individual fish tre for Environment, Fisheries can move up to 20km per day." The idea of closing areas

But an electronic tag, devel- journal Nature: "When tidal

Lowestoft, discovered that dur- has been mooted as a method Atlantic, following a collapse in numbers through over-fishing.

The plaice move by swimmmg up into the tidal stream, which moves north or south, changing direction every six hours with the rise and fall of the tide around the British coast. By moving in and out of the stream, they can reach their spawning grounds in the North Sea and in the east of the Channel, and the feeding grounds in between, using less energy than if they were swim-ming in still water.

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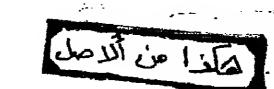
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New bid to tackle corrupt police

Patricia Wynn Davies

Police officers in elite squads should be moved around frequently to stop them being tempted into corruption, the Government will be told today.

The Police Complaints Authority, which deals with allegations of police malpractice, will use its first meeting with the Home Office today to urge a shake-up of specialist crime units in England and Wales to prevent "endemic corruption".

Peter Moorhouse, chairmao of the PCA, is also expected to call during discussions with Alun Michael, the Home Office minister, for officers suspected of falsifying evideoce or taking bribes to be subject to the same kind of disciplinary procedures as other workers, and for an end to officers evading punishment

by retiring on health grounds. Mr Moorhouse believes that specially selected officers serving in the country's six regional crime squads should be regularly rotated to prevent them forming close bonds with local criminals. The concerns come in the wake of last month's criticism of the South East Regional Crime Squad, when a judge threatened 20 detectives with contempt of court proceedings after a drugs case collapsed because evidence had been destroyed.

Mr Moorhouse said yesterday that the failure to rotate officers led to "endemic corruption -corruption of evidence or fi-

nancial corruption". An authority spokesman said yesterday: "The question of how long officers spend in these

fish put

ir Users Of.

no Dose

96H01A

maler

since November 1991 when we produced a report on the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad. Yet the debate still continues."

The Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) insisted that ethical and management standards in the police service were higher than ever and that deployment of officers must remain a matter for individual chief officers. Paul Whitehouse, Chief Constable of Sussex and vice-chairman of Acpo's personnel and training committee, agreed that in "high pressure" situations there was always potential for corruption, but said such behaviour was "very much the exception, not the norm".

Acpo is in agreement, however, with Mr Moorhnuse's call for a change in the standard of proof needed to discipline corrupt officers. At present, a discipline case must be proved "beyond reasonable doubt", the standard required in criminal trials. Both the complaints authority and Acpo believe that disciplinary hearings should be judged on a balance of probabilities - the standard practice in Scottish police forces.

The Police Federation, the union for officers up to the rank of inspector, said it would continue to campaign against any change in the burden of proof. Fred Bronghton, the chairman, said: "We have to deal with professional criminals that tactically will make allegations against po-lice ... These matters have to be properly investigated. But they have to be tested to make sure that the allegations are substantiated. That's all we ask, that squads has been on the agenda there's a fair, just system."



Figure of fun: A rare 1930s, German-made tin toy of Mickey and Minnie Mouse to be sold by Phillips in London on Tuesday. The toy, expected to fetch up to £10,000, was banned by the Nazis, who switched production to more Teutonic, military-style toys

Photograph: Andrew Buuman to fetch up to £10,000, was banned by the Nazis, who switched production to more Teutonic, military-style toys

Shorter holidays proposed for teachers

Judith Judd **Education Editor**

Teachers would be given short-er holidays and fewer hureaucratic tasks under a proposal put forward at a meeting of a left-wing think-tank yesterday. The suggestion comes at a

time when the Government is considering ways to raise standards by restructuring the profession and improving morale. Under the plan, suggested at a seminar organised by the Fahian Society, teachers' holi-days would be cut to between four and six weeks a year.

الما المن الدما

They would be required to teach on Saturday mornings, after school and at summer schools of the type proposed last week by the Government which will help improve literacy through two-week programmes during the holidays.

In return, there would be a hig reduction in the administrative tasks teachers had to carry out and support staff would ensure school equipment, such as photocopiers, was functioning properly. The aim would be to maximise the time teachers

spend actually teaching. The meeting was attended by teachers, local authority officials, academics and politicians. Teachers reacted angrily to

the suggestion of shorter holi-days. Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "Teachers are already working in excess of 50 hours a week. "That is why so many of

them are suffering from stress and leaving the profession. We would oppose any attempt to change the working week or the

working year."

He said only two weeks ago

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, had announced that he was reducing teachers' administrative load: "I cannot conceive he would have made such an announcement if there was another side of the

picture he was not revealing." At the meeting, held under rules which mean speakers cannot be identified, some speakers suggested that teachers were too defensive.

Guard denies suicide claims

Kathy Marks

A Securicor guard who saw a burglary suspect hanging in his cell denied yesterday that she had claimed he was faking a

suicide attempt. Camille Elliott-Kamara told an inquest in Hammersmith, west London, that the Securicor staff on duty in the cells at Breotford Magistrates' Court had treated the incident as an

emergency and reacted swiftly. Peter Austin, 30, died at the courthouse on 29 January this year while awaiting a bail hearing. The inquest was told yesterday by counsel for Securicor that the firm had not held an inquiry into his death.

Miss Ellion-Kamara rejected the version of events given by Mr Austin's barrister, Stuart Armstrong, who alleged that guards saw him hanging but did not enter his cell for 10 minutes. She denied having a lengthy discussion with Mr Armstrong about whether he was feigning suicide: "I do recall saying to him something to the effect that we've got to be sure that he's not just luring us in there."

The inquest heard that although Mr Austin's conduct in the cells suggested that he was in a disturbed state, he was not placed on a special watch until after he was cut down. By then, according to evidence from the pathologist, he was already dead, although Securicor guards had pronounced him fit and left him lying on the floor in the recovery position.
Patrick O'Connor OC, coun-

sel for Mr Austin's family, said Miss Elliott-Kamara's account was in profound conflict with Mr Armstrong's, Someone is not telling the truth here and it's you," he said. She said that was not the case. Mr O'Connor suggested that she had insisted repeatedly that Mr Austin was playing a trick. "You were ful-ly aware of the dangers of such an incident and you recklessly disregarded them," he said.

Miss Elliott-Kamara disagreed with that suggestion. The case continues today.



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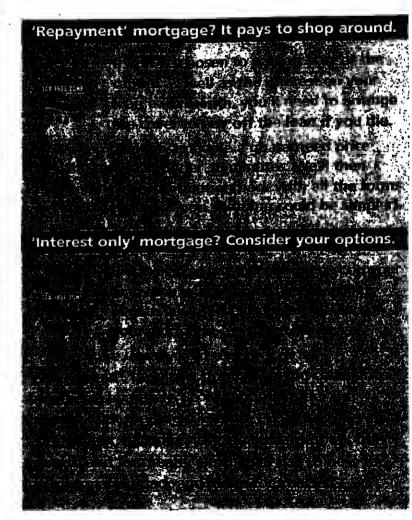
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M Health (*)



Bra wars: Eva Herzigova in the advertisement that caused such a stir. Right: Trevor Beattie who has upset rivals by claiming credit for the campaign Photograph: John Rasmussen

Breast-beating and tantrums as Bra Wars break out in ad land

Paul McCann Media Correspondent

In the trendy hars and restaurants of Soho where advertising people hang out, a long-running

As if it hadn't already occupied more than enough acres of newsprint, the Wonderbra advertisements starring model feud about the 90s' most famous Eva Herzigova have provoked lifting an entire generation of recently when the agency that latious adviser, and has become known as "Bra letters to the industry's trade women's hreasts to just under made the advertisements, now at agency GGT - made

Wars" or the "Storm in a D- magazine Campaign, temper tantrums at award ceremonies and much tossing of pony-tails across the West End.

The success of the Wonderbra advertising - credited with lifting an entire generation of recently when the agency that

their chins - means there are plenty of people claiming to have been the originator of the

The saga, which bas been running for some time, flared up agency, and its creative director, Trevor Beattie, found him-

self without a job.

As the only advertising man with his own personal public relations adviser, Mr Beattie -

limelight while he looked for a

Much of this publicity led to references to Mr Beattie as the man "behind" the Wonderbra ads.

This has hacked off one Nigel

tically named agency Euro RSCG Wnek Gosper, who ac-tually wrote the "Hello Boys" line that helped make the cam-

paign a hit.

At the advertising industry Oscars, the D&AD awards, last month, Mr Beattie attempted to talk to Mr Rose who hlanked him and provoked a stand-up row in front of the industry's

Then last week Campaign re-ceived a letter establishing a counter-claim to the idea. Sam Hurford, an art director at Young & Rubicam, claimed that he and copywriter Murray Partridge devised the advertisements with the belp of two women who came up with the lines of copy that preceded "Hello Boys" - "Say Goodbye to Your Feet" and "Who said Diamonds are a girl's best

friend?" Mr Hurford's letter said: "Sales and tits went up. And awards were won. And 'lo coincidence' Trevor Beattie wasn't in the room. Strange. In fact he wasn't even in the country. And Nigel Rose was working for CDP [another agency].

The dispute goes to the heart of what we all do," said Murray Partridge yesterday.
"You live and die in advertising by your credits. They are worth money in the bank to you and you can go from earning £15,000 a year to £100,000 a year off the back of one good ad."

"It is hankie-stamping in luvvie-land," said Mr Beattie yesterday. "Nigel wrote the Hello Boys' line and I wrote the other lines, but it gets known as the Hello Boys' campaign and about half a dozen of us have at various times been called 'Mr Wonderbra' in the press."



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SAINSBURY'S HOUSE & GARDEN CENTRES

Improve or face fines, rail firms told

Transport Correspondent

The rail regulator yesterday threatened private rail companies with heavy fines if they do not improve their services.

John Swift QC, whose extensive powers include the power to impose unlimited cash penalties and modify train licences, targeted four areas where operators will have to "do better than they are at the moment".

New owners needed to improve the information passengers get about train running times and also upgrade timetable information provided by telephone inquiry hureaux as well as significantly better arrangements for disabled people at stations.

The regulator also singled out the sale of tickets by train companies as a matter for particuar concern. Earlier this year, his office sent hundreds of investigators out to pose as passengers and identify the apparent failures of train operators to pro-vide accurate and impartial information about fares. More than 5,000 inquiries at

booking offices and via pas-sengers phone lines were made by researchers to check how far sales staff provided information about alternative routes and ticket prices. The results of Mr Swift's

survey will be released in "a few weeks". Yesterday he refused to elaborate on its findings, how-ever, senior aides to the regulator confirmed that tough action would be taken. "We promised in January to right any wrongs and considering the preliminary findings we shall be taking action," said one official. The action was launched af-

ter Which? magazine, published by the Consumers' Association, last year said it had made more than 250 inquiries or purchases at 28 stations or inquiry points around the counry and found train companies were overcharging nine out of 10 rail passengers.

The Consumers' Association vesterday welcomed the moves. But it is worrying that he has to remind train companies of such simple objectives as coordinating services and delivering impartial and accurate ticket information."

Train companies will be expected to produce the plans for new ticketing arrangements by the end of this year. "There are strictions in September."

industry is committed to meeting and exceeding them," said Ivor Warburton, the incoming chairman of the Association of Train Operating Companies, the group which represents all

25 private rail firms. It is the second time in seven days that the regulator has weighed in on the side of the consumer. Last week, Mr Swift launched a fresh attack on Railtrack, the company that owns the nation's track and signalling, criticising its investment record and launching a review of up to £300m in public subsidies the company receives.

However, on the day that the rail regulator sought to highlight the need for better network ben-



John Swift: Targeted four areas that need to improve

efits, the pressure group Save Our Railways revealed that train companies were secretly introducing new restrictions on the Network card - which gives passengers hig discounts on

train tickets in the south-east. The Network card makes rail travel more affordable for tens of thousands of travellers. Rail privatisation has only just been completed and already the privatised companies are con-spiring to get rid of it," said Jonathan Bray, a spokesman for Save Our Railways.

A spokesman for ATOC, which markets the card, said that it had been a victim of its own success. "There are about 430,000 cards in use. Around 50 per cent of all journeys are made by 14 per cent of card holders - most of whom are commuters. As the Network card was meant to be used by leisure travellers, we will be introducing re-

The Nationa

Was Britain's greatest Arctic explorer a victim of cannibals?

Heritage Correspondent

One of the greatest Arctic explorers in British history might have met the most ignoble end of all; eaten by Eskimos or, worse, his fellow adventurers.

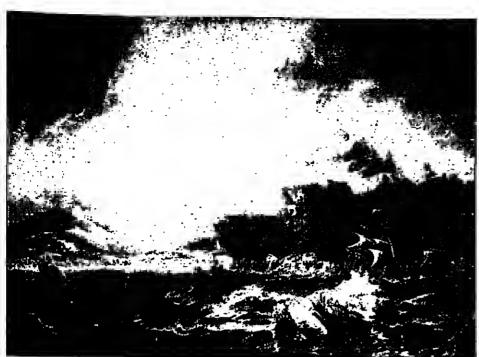
The 150th anniversary of the death of Sir John Espathic.

death of Sir John Franklin was marked at ceremooies in London yesterday amid many fine words about "arguably Brit-ain's greatest explorer of the Arctic"

But questions remain about the fate of Sir John and his crew as they struggled in vain to walk 1,000 miles out of the Arctic Circle. Canadian researchers have concluded from marks on skeletoos found at Starvation Bay - 230 miles from where the 129 officers and men ahandoned their ice-stricken ships that the dwindling hand resorted to cannibalism.

The Royal Navy has always rejected this slur on its men. But an alternative explanation for the scars, that the retreating crew was finished off by Eskimos armed with snow knives, is unacceptable to the Canadians. Political correctness forbids them thinking the Inuit people capable of such barbarism.

emonies, including descendants of Franklin, who proved his mettle as a midshipman at the Bat-tle of Trafalgar, his officers and crew, were not about to conduct an ioquest. Major Anthony Gell, Franklin's great-great
Navy at 14, earned an almost legendary reputation as a bold



fore the grim trek south began.

and Terror, there was simply not

Once off their ships, Erebus

forebear's memorial in Westminster Ahbey and the party took a boat down the Thames to the Royal Naval College chapel at Greenwich. But there

will be speculation on the side. Ralph Lloyd-Jones, a librar-The guests at yesterday's cer- ian and Franklin expert, believes Sir John was simply a product of his beroie time - a man who "did not turn back when things went wrong" and suffered the consequences. Born in Spilsby, Lincolnshire, he entered the their clothes and boiled bones from exhumed carcasses.

The fateful expedition was an early example of great British failures in polar exploration, ex-tending though Scott's tragic trip to the South Pole to recent unsuccessful hids at a solo crossings of Antarctica.

Franklin's ships became icebound 100 miles short of the elusive passage between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, later "discovered" by Roald Amundsen, the Norwegian who heat Captain Scott to the South Pole.

Mr Lloyd-Jones finds the Canadians' cannibalism theory less plausible than murder by Inuits, who would certainly have felt threatened by a large group of aliens. In 1859, an Admiralty search party found a ship's boat mounted on sledge runners. It contained two skeletons and two loaded shotguns were propped against the side.

Around 40 expeditions have heeo made to try and unravel the grim story of Franklin's last expedition - the early ones earlier overland venture to the were sent by Lady Franklin Canadian Arctic led by Franklin, who refused to accept her husband was dead - but they, like temperatures plunged to minus enough for the sailors to survive 50C and the party was reduced Sir John, have found the Arcon, tough characters though to eating lichen, leather from the reluctant to yield its secrets.



Forgotten hero: Sir John Franklin and (inset) 'HMSS Erebus and Terror in the Antarctic' by John Wilson Carmichael Photographs: National Mantime Museum

DAILY POEM

Thou'

rove.

ace

by Philip Gross

A case of key and keyhole,

or doesn't in a place not seen until they're bits

dismantled, springs spilled everywhere;

as cornflakes once don't always kiss; what jams or slips

fumbled after the party, wrong door, sorry; what fits

in the gullet or sticks like a glove, depending how

precisely the spaces between us

This poem comes from the summer 1997 edition of Poetry London Newsletter. It also features oew work by (among others) Selima Hill, Moniza Alvi and Ruth Fainlight, as well as com-

us; what elieks

a tolerance, let's say, of the nearest thou'.

Thou': a thousandth of an inch (Engineering)

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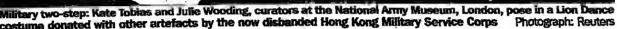


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Blair agrees to brief encounter with the Chinese

Stephen Vines Hong Kong

The scene has finally been set for the last Sino-British show-down in Hong Kong. With less than three weeks to go before the end of British rule, Tony Blair, the prime minister, yes-terday confirmed that he would be attending the handover ceremony, while in Peking, China announced that the Chinese delegation will be led by the Comnunist Party leader, President

Jiang Zemin. Mr Blair made the announcement during Question Time in the House of Commons. He was asked whether the Government would owe a moral duty to the people of

Hong Kong after 1 July.
"I do agree," the Prime Minister said. "I think that is important." He added: "I will be attending that handover cere-

mony myself."

It now looks likely that the two delegations will meet for only 45 minutes at the midnight handover ceremony, while Chinese leaders hoycott Britain's sunset farewell ceremony and British leaders boycott China's ceremony to install the new ad-

ministration. China has yet to confirm it is staying away from the farewell ceremony hut Britain has stated flatly that Mr Blair cannot attend a ceremony which includes the swearing-in of Provisional Legislature members.

The new legislature will replace Hong Kong's elected Legislative Council and has been characterised by both Britain and the United States as an illegitimate body. A Foreign Of-fice spokesman said: "We're very much against this baby and we won't be there at its birth".

China has decided to send a delegation which far outweighs Britain's in semiority and numbers. President Jiang, the head of state, outranks the Prince of Wales, who will only represent the British head of state.

More controversially, the Chinese delegation will include prime minister Li Peng, who is reviled in Hong Kong because of his role in the Tiananmen

Government 'misled public'

A legislator's inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the sudden departure of Lawrence Leung, Hong Kong's Director of Immigration, pictured right, published its findings yesterday, concluding that there had been "a concerted effort by the Government to mislead the legislature and the public into what they knew to be untrue". they knew to be untrue.

The chairman of the inquir Ip Kwok-him, said that the affair

had "brought the Government into disrepute, seriously undermined its credibility and damaged the trust between the Legislative Council and the administration". However, the legislators were satisfied that the Government had good reasons for dismissing

Mr Leung.
Mr lp said that some of these reasons could not be made public, but he was "shocked" by Information about Mr Leung which was revealed to his committee in camera.
He said that the committee had insufficient resources to get to the bottom of allegations of political involvement and implications of political impropriety which had been a manufacture. rumoured as factors leading to Mr Leung's departure.

In protocol terms, Mr Blair is his equivalent.

Qian Qichen, the Foreign Minister and vice-premier, will he shadowed by the Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, China has also named the leaders of a host of Communist front organisations as participants in the events. They include the heads of bodies such as the China Democratic League and the China Association for Promoting Democracy. Presumably the intention is to use the Hong Kong handover as a symbol of greater Chinese unity.

The large Chinese delegation also includes a number of officials who played a role in the negotiations for Hong Kong's return to Chinese rule hut it specifically excludes China's principle player, the deposed Communist Party head Zhao Ziyang. Mr Zhao has yet to he brought in from political oblivion after having shown sympa-thy for the 1989 democracy protests. However, Margaret Thatcher, who led Britain's negotiations, will be in Hong Kong for the handover. The concentrated presence of



the Chinese leadership in Hong the Chinese leadership in Hong Kong for the first time underlines the tremendous importance Peking attaches to resuming sovereignty over the last colony on Chinese soil. (The enclave of Macau is not regarded as a colony following an agreement to describe it as Chinese territory under Portuguese administration.)

tuguese administration.)
The boycott of the swearing in ceremony for the new administration was started by the US, which announced that Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, would not take part. US congressmen invited to attend the handover ceremonies have now said they will join her in the boycott.

Other countries are considering whether they should he present. Australian politicians are putting pressure on their foreign minister to join the boycott and Britain is understood to have been sounding out its European Union partners.

A European diplomat based in Hong Kong said yesterday: "I don't think all the EU countries will he happy about annoying China, they are much more interested in trade".

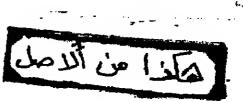
Meanwhile, a new Hong Kong People's Coalition for the Alternative Handover will today announce a series of events to focus on improved living standards and bringing power to the grassroots.

■ Mr Jiang's visit to Hong Kong looks set to be unexpectedly brief for the leader of the triumphant new sovereign power, writes Teresa Poole in

Peking. China said he would attend the swearing-in of the chief executive and new legislature, but would return to Peking within hours to host a grand reception for 3,500 guests in the Great Hall of the People. This will lead on to a "grand convention" and a pageant at the Peking Workers' Stadium. China's top leaders appearnervous of spending too much time in Hong Kong, preferring the controlled envi-ronment of Peking's celebrations. The latest rumours are that Mr Jiang and Li Peng have







Russia's fear of Pope halts summit

Moscow

Secret efforts to arrange a meeting between the heads of the world's two largest Christian churches, the Pope and the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, have fallen victim at the last minute to a fresh bout of the rivalry and suspicion that divided their institutions for nearly 1,000 years.

For months, Moscow and the Vatican have been talking privately about bringing the two leaders to-gether for discussions to ease their strained relations, which have deteriorated sharply since the end of the Soviet Union.

The summit would have been a historical milestone as the Ortho-dox and Roman Catholic churches have been at odds since East and West were set against one another by the schism of 1054. They fought and bickered their way through most of the following nine centuries: no meeting has occurred between a Russian patriarch and a pope.

The meeting - supported by liberals in both camps - was to bave been held later this month in Austria, one of the destinations on an international tour by the Russian Patriarch, Alexy 11, which begins today. However, sources within his Moscow beadquarters yesterday said the cource's synod has ruled that the meeting was "premature" and cannot take place in the near future because of several "unre-

solved issues". Although the synod's deliberations are traditionally sbrouded in secrecy, it is clear that high on the list of mutual grievances is Moscow's anger at what it sees as predatory incursions into Russia by the Vati-can in the aftermath of Communism. After re-establishing an official presence in Russia, the Catholic Church has reopened scores of parishes across the country, largely for Catholic ethnic comment later this month, which would munines - Poles and Germans - who were forced to suppress their faiths for 15 years.

religious roots during the Soviet era. Under the widely-abused 1993 Russian constitution, they are entitled to worship freely, but they have met resistance from a nationalist and isolationist camp within the Orthodox Church, often supported by regional apparatchiks anxious to reinforce the church's unofficial status as an arm of the state.

In general, competition from Rome is frowned on, even though there are well under I million Catholics on Russian territory, of whom only a small minority are active church-goers. The Catholics have been accused by church lead-

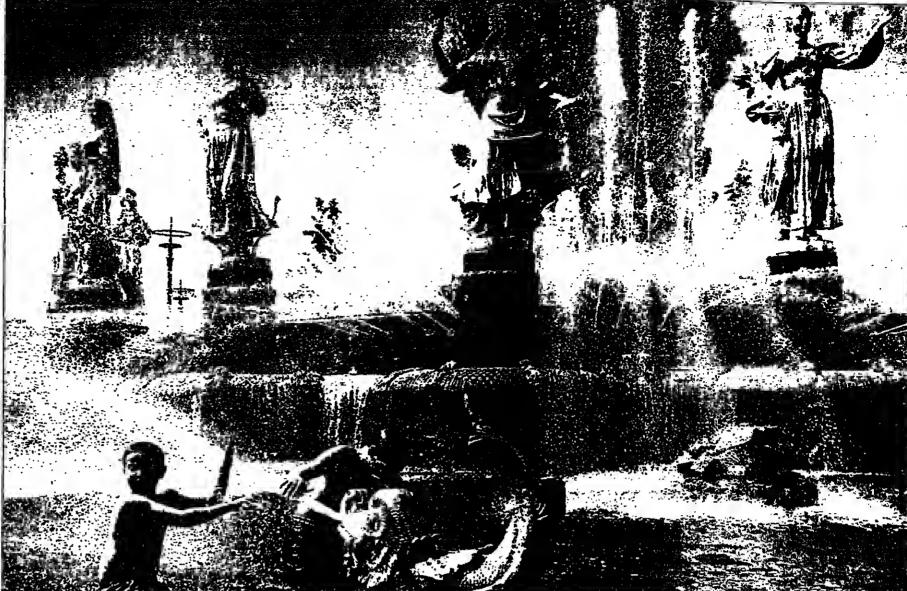
ers in Moscow of "proselytising". Further tensions flow from longrunning disagreements over the Uniate Catholics in Ukraine and Belarus. The church, which answers to Rome but owes much of its liturgy to Orthodoxy, was foreibly merged with the Russian church by Stalin. It was recognised by Mikhail Gorbachev shortly before the fall of the

Soviet Union – prompting many worshippers and clerics to sever their links with Moscow.

But the Moscow Patriarchate continues to treat Ukraine as part of its sphere of influence. It suspects the Ukraine as the Ukraine as part of its sphere of influence. the Uniate Catholics of trying to lure away their fellow Slavs by offering worship that resembles Orthodoxy but comes under the Vatican's sway. At times the battle for the souls of Ukrainians has led to violence.

Despite the advent of religious freedom in Russia, relations between the Christian church's two largest houses are significantly worse than they were at the end of the Soviet Union. The current mood of distrust reflects a generally isolationist mood that has seized the Orthodox Church. This is reflected in a tranche of new anti-constitutional laws sweeping across Russia's re-gions curbing religious freedom.

To this could soon be added a proposed law, due before parlia-



Fountain of youth: Two boys defy officials to make a splash in the Friendship of Nations fountain at the All-Russia Exhibition Centre in Moscow as temperatures climbed to an early summer high of 30 degrees yesterday

Media stars put at mercy of Chechen gangs

Moscow — Russian journalists have been accused of many vices, from hias to bribe-taking. But a lack of guts is not usually among the charges levelled against them.

Reporters and photographers were in the thick of the bombing and mayhem during the war in Chechyna, although it was dangerous encmy territory for their countrymen in

With peace in place, they have continued going back to the republic, despite the risk of becoming the latest statistic in a rash of abductions that is placing Moscow's precarious relations with the Chechen separatist government under fresh strain.

In the last few weeks, the Russian media bas watched in borror as one after another of its staff has been spirMoscow dismayed as reporters are kidnapped at gunpoint and huge ransom demands follow, writes **Phil Reeves**

ited away by armed Chechen gangs,

The victims include one of the country's top news reporters, 31-yearold Yelena Masyuk, of the NTV network, who made her name by providing daring and graphic war reports from the region. Many Russians already believe that a bumiliating peace deal was struck with their Islamic neighbours; seeing their media stars disappear is a large blow on a festering bruise.

Yesterday, the number of jour-nalists kidnapped this year rose to nine after two journalists were forced

into a car at gumpoint during the ear-ly afternoon in the centre of Grozny, lawlessness that now prevails in post-

demanding ransoms of up to \$3m. the capital, and taken off to captivity. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists in New York, seven other journalists disappeared in 1995 and 1996 and are feared dead.

Journalists are far from alone in being the target for kidnappers, who are depicted both in Moscow and Grozny as bandits who care nothing for politics, but a great deal for large sums of money. Since the end of the 21-month war last August, dozens of people - including western aid agency officials - bave been abduct- ations.

Aid and media organisations routinely deny that they pay ransoms.

war Chechnya. By far the worst outrage came late last year when six Red Cross workers were shot dead in their

The latest kidnappings will particularly rankle with the Russians, who only three nights ago were treated to bappy TV footage of four journalists who had just been released after three months of captivity and many rounds of intense negoti-

although there are persistent rumours that deals have been struck in which large sums of money have been paid, and Chechens have been re-leased from Russian prisons. Without doubt, some of the kid-

nappers have struck the jackpot. The Chechen president, Aslan Maskhadov, has insisted that he has personally led efforts to free kidnapped journalists, and has ac-cused the kidnappers of jeopardising the republic's long and difficult

Last month - despite their differ-ences - the Chechens and the Russians signed a peace treaty intended to end 400 years of hostility. But, with another two Russians behind hars. this outhreak of sweetness and light will prove hard to sustain.



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Crisis moves on, leaving France and Germany still poles apart

John Lichfield

The brief Emu crisis, which may or may not have been a real crisis, will soon be over. The real crises bave still to come.

The new French government will probably, after all, sign up to the disciplinary rules for the European single currency when EU leaders meet in Amsterdam next week. After causing a flurry of market and diplomatic anxiety, the French government has signalled that it can sign up for Emu budgetary discipline - the German-inspired Stability Pact promising to re-focus EU efforts on growth and job-creation.

The details will be discussed when the EU Commission Pres-

A Franco-German summit m Poitiers tomorrow, which had threatened to be explosive, may now become a wary but friendly re-affirmation of the Franco-German alliance.

But all the longer-term problems with Economic and Monetary Union remain. Neither France nor Germany seem remotely likely to meet the Maastricbt guidelines for budgetary discipline this year; the new government in Paris and the Kohl administration remain poles apart on whether the single currency sbould include Italy, Spain and Portugal from the start.

embourg on Monday, when the French finance minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, said France wanted a "period of reflection" before signing the sta-bility pact which commits single currency members to strict fiscal and budgetary discipline. Mr Strauss-Kahn said he was not challenging the pact itself: he wanted to be sure that the EU would also be taking appropri-ate joint, political decisions to promote growth and jobs.

The furious reaction of the German government and the European Commission, and - in return for a new text the startled reaction of the markets, seems to have taken the Jospin government by sur-prise. Mr Strauss-Kahn's announcement was intended as a ident Jacques Santer visits Paris today for talks with both President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin.

minimum down-payment on the Socialists' campaign promises to budge the Emu project away from rigid monetarist or tbodoxy towards a greater concern for growth and employment. But it was also intended as a statement of the new French government's intention to push ahead with Emu, whatever the apparent difficulties.

On Tuesday, the Jospin administration seemed for many bours not to know wbether it was coming or going; getting firmer or softer. The European affairs minister, Pierre Moscovici, dismissed the possibility of a compromise declaration. Paris would insist on a "real delay." President Chirac seemed to put himself on the side of France's EU partners, and

Why Lionel and Blair are out of step





John Lichfield

Tony Blair was in Paris last night for a long-arranged working dinner with President Chirac at the Elysée Palace. The Prime Minister had also made several efforts to arrange a meeting with the new French premier, Mr Jospin. But he had been rebuffed. Mr Jospin said that he was too busy to see him.

Officially, both governments insist that this was not a snub. The two ascendant stars of the European left saw each other only last week at the gathering of European socialists and social democrats in Malmo, Sweden, where the two men delivered very different messages. They will meet again at the EU summil in Amsterdam next Monday and Tuesday.

But it is highly unusual or a top European leader to visit the French President without also seeing the Prime Minister. This is doubly so when the two most important offices of the French state are held by men from dif-ferent parties. Mr Jospin's office said: "They have nothing new to say. It's as simple as that. There is no problem."

But the satirical and investigative newspaper, Le Canard Enchaine reported vesterday that there was indeed a certain froideur between the two men. During his election campaign, Mr Jospin made several attempts to prise from Mr Blair "a few words of encouragement or a gesture of support. the newspaper said. Such an intervention by Mr Blair, fresh from his own electoral triumph and much lionised in France, might have had quite an impact

on the French campaign. The Britisb Prime Minister refused. presumably unwilling to get involved in French politics, or perhaps believing the predictions

that the centre-right would win.
On the night of his victory 10 days ago, Mr Jospin was told that Mr Blair had been trying to telephone him with his congratulations. Flushed with his success, he refused to reply immediately. A Socialist official told Le Canard that Mr Jospin decided to faire mariner the British Prime Minister - literally, to let bim "stew in his juice".

The coolness between the first simultaneous left-wing British and French prime ministers for 50 years may have somewhat wider causes. Mr Jospin is said to have been irritated by Mr Blair's claim to have reinvented left-wing politics. The two are rivals for the beavyweight championship of the European left. Whichever proves more successful could change the direction of left-wing politics across the Continent.

The French Socialists were deeply annoyed by commen-taries, during both the British and French elections, comparing Labour's "cultural revolution" with their own alleged, statist archaism. Mr Jospin's deputy, Martine Aubry, is especially virulent on this point privately. She says the French Left has nothing to learn from Labour whose new ideas are reworked conservative ideas rather than genuinely social-democratic. The French socialists, she points out, moved to the pragmatic centre years ago while Labour was still in the anti-EU, anti-Nato wilderness.



French finance minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn outside the Elysée. He said earlier France wanted to reflect before signing the stability pact

against the new Socialist government, be needed to agree a text on employby calling for a signing of the Stabiliment and growth in time. "But we will Then, Mr Jospin, after a meeting make them," he said.

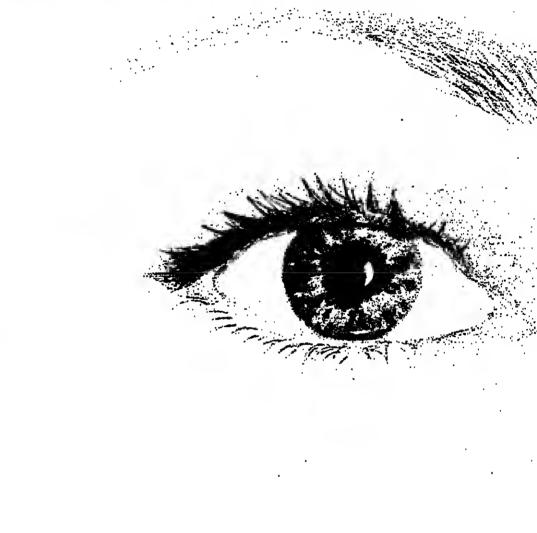
with the Dutch Prime Minister, Wim Kok, said the delay might only be one Jospin has won anything concrete. Ac-

cording to one version, the declaration week after all. "Great efforts" would on jobs will be little more than a mish-mash of existing commitments in the Maastricht treaty and an extension of It remains to be seen whether Mr texts which were already under discussion as part of the inter-govern-

mental negotiation on EU treaty reform. According to another version, the declaration will be written into the new treaty itself and fleshed out before the end of the year. It could then amount to a real attempt to create the kind of existing EMU project is unclear.

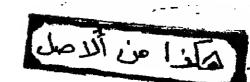
EU-wide policy for growth which the German government and the previous British government long resisted. How that squares with the essentially

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battle for the euro



Bonn tries to keep lid on Emu protest

Bonn

The German government struggled yesterday to quell a gathering storm of protest against European monetary union, and was forced to deny rumours that it was secretly plotting to postpone the project.

As the parliamentary consensus over the euro crumbled, Chancellor Heimut Kohl found himself in the cross-fire. For the first time, the German left ap-peared to be lining up with the new French government, while the right was moving to block the Chancellor's escape route towards a fudge.

Mr Kohl and his ministers

drew on their most apocalyptic vocabulary yet to parry de-mands for softening the Maastricht criteria or for putting off



Chancellor Kohl and Mr Kinkel are warning of catastrophe if European monetary union is put off beyond 1999

The Chancellor warned: "All Minister, told parliament that other options would have cat-astrophic consequences for the German economy, catastrophic consequences for the labour market, for our currency and for "loss of face", there would be a flight to the Deutschmark and



any talk of a postponement

would result in Germany's "iso-

lation" and cause "enormous

damage". Were the euro to be delayed, Europe would suffer a

fiscal efforts of the past years

So terrified is the government of this scenario that it has ap-

parently been making quiet

preparations to rein in these primeval forces if ever they are

unleashed. According to un-named government sources cited by the Berliner Morgenpost newspaper, Mr Kohl's admin-

istration is drawing up contin-

gency plans for a one-year

postponement. Monetary union

would thus be launched in the

year 2000, but the changeover

would be completed two years

later, as envisaged under the

Pressure for a delay is mount-ing among Mr Kohl's Bavarian sister party, the Christian So-

cialists. With all evidence point-

original schedule.

would have been in vain.

if the budget deficit goes much above the 3 per cent allowed, they will vote against German participation in EMU. The opposition Social Democrats and Greens, meanwhile, have finally pricked up their ears to the howls of protest in the streets against euro-inspired austerity. Echoing the sentiments of their French comrades, the politicians of the left served notice yesterday that if

In public, the Christian So-cialists are backing Mr Kohl's line, but privately they argue that a postponement would be

a better solution than a soft euro. They have signalled that

would support the latter. The single currency must not become a monetary strait-jacket," said the Social De-mocrats' leading europhile, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul.

it came to a choice between the

new money and the jobless, they

The Greens have also suddeuly caught the whiff of an ideologically distasteful odour emanating from the currency they had once supported almost unquestioningly. There was a danger, warned the Green MP, Christian Sterzing, that the euro might become "an instrument of economic neo-liberalism". With such denunciations ringing in his ears, Mr Kohl goes to France tomorrow to exhort Germany's closest ally to make more sacrifices. The mission looks almost impossible.

As Helmut Schmidt, the former Social Democrat chancellor, noted in an article yesterday, Germany is not the flavour of the month: "With its insistence on strict adherence to the Maastricht criteria, and its ing to a failure by Germany to 'currency racism' against southmeet the Maastricht criteria em European countries ... Ger-this year, the Bavarians are many has made itself more convinced that their country is unloved than at any time in the in danger of playing midwife to a currency of little worth.

a currency of little worth.

a currency of little worth.

Spanish leaders show solidarity with Helmut

Elizabeth Nash Madrid

Spanish political leaders closed ranks yesterday in defence of the countdown towards European monetary union, lining up tacitly behind the buffeted German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. With the fate of the euro in the balance, the conservative Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar and the Socialist opposition leader, Felipe Gonzalez, insisted Spain must hold fast to its course.

Speaking in the State of the Nation debate yesterday, Mr Aznar pledged to contribute to the huilding of a single currency without putting into question either criteria or timetables or results achieved after laborious negotiations". He added that Spain was on the point of ful-filling all the requirements and

hoped to join first rime round. His speech was a clear gesture of comfort to Chancellor Kohl, now the conservative Mr Aznar's principal political ally in Europe. Peppering his speech with references to the "new Europe" that Spain aspired to join. Mr Aznar promised to meet the "important challenge" imposed by Brussels, adding in a nod to prevailing breezes. that "social protection" should not be neglected.

Mr Gonzalez in reply said the

decision of a third of Europeans to change their government next week's Amsterdam summit and created "uncertainties". But he insisted "we must keep to the calendar established by Maastricht", and added with a smile that as a signatory of the treaty he was "one of the guilty men - but I have no regrets". This brief and delicate reference gave little hint of the profound humiliation he would feel if the complex deal on monetary

union fell apart. Yesterday's debate was relaxed and conciliatory by comparison with recent ill-tempered nging matches. Spain's standing in Europe is of such tran-scendental importance to Madrid that the clanging together of ranks, the reaffirmation of a common approach, is no surprise.

But with Labour's victory in Britain and of the Socialists' in France, both Spanish leaders find themselves out of step with their European colleagues. "We are the last right-wing bastion in Europe." Mr Aznar said last week, a hunkerist declaration that made even his supporters groan. Mr Gonzalez, too, feels outdated by Tony Blair and Lionel Jospin, in comparison with whom he recently described himself as a "dinosaur".

significant shorts

Iraqi dissidents claim murder of army officer

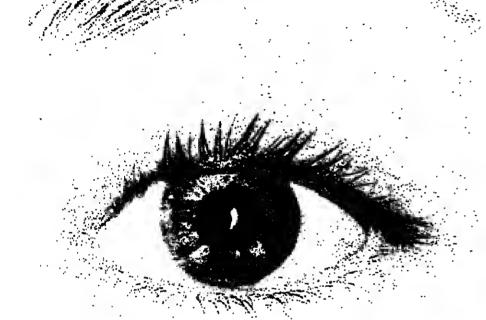
A major Iraqi opposition group yesterday claimed that dissidents have killed a senior army officer. The mainly Shia group, the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq, said Maj. Gen. Ahmed Eziddin Al-Dulaimi was killed on 29 May while on his way to his headquarters in Baghdad. There was no way to confirm the claim, made in a written statement by the Iran-based group. AP - Cairo

Congo leaders call for ceasefire

President Pascal Lissouba and the leader of a private militia vesterday called for a ceasefire between their forces to end fighting that has devastated the capital. "I'm ordering a ceasefire from this moment," Mr Lissouba said on national radio. His rival, Gen. Denis Sassou-Nguesso, went on his own private radio to announce that he, ton, had agreed to a ceasefire.

Australian rhino sanctuary pian

The Australian state of Queensland is hoping to persuade Nelson Mandela to back plans for an outback wilderness haven for rhinoceros. The proposal aims to combine the need to develop the state's vast savannah with efforts to save the rhino, officials said vesterday. AP - Brisbane







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United Nations cash row that threatens to isolate America

A bloody diplomatic ruckus is set to break out today with the expected publication in Washingion of plans for the repay-ment by the United States of only a portion of the roughly \$1.3bn (£760m) that it owes the United Nations.

The package, negotiated over several months behind closed doors on Capitol Hill, will be ballyhooed by President Bill Clinton's administration as a breakthrough in the long-running impasse over US contri-

To the rest of the UN mem-bership, it is likely to come over as a slap in the face. If it is enacted as drafted, the plan would entail a sharp increase in the dues that Britain and the rest of the European Union members would pay to keep the UN

Not only does the package propose paying only \$813m in back due, a third of the total that the UN believes it is owed, but it is also laden with conditions that are highly controversial. The delinquent contributions would, for instance, only be paid over a period of three years.

This is less even than what the administration had been talking to us about," remarked one angry European diplomat vesterday

Anger is reaching a pitch with the US, if only because by withholding its UN dues, it is blatantly violating its obligations under international treaty to pay up the full amount of its contributions on time.

"It is seen here as an issue of law and international obligation, but it is not seen like that in Washington," another diplo-

"What is happening is clear-ly weakening the position of the US, as well as the position of all of us who are trying to stand up for international law on other

Due to be made public at a

US refusal to pay its dues causing a diplomatic

furore, writes **David Usborne** in New York

meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this morning, the package was hammered out in negotiations be-tween the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Helms and Senator Joseph Biden, the ranking Democrat on the committee. Mr Biden was essentially speaking for the Clinton administra-

Most vexing will be demands for strict ceilings on the levels of American contributions in future years. The US share of the regular UN hudget would be cut in the second year of the repayment programme from 25 per cent now to 22 per cent. From the third year it would be capped at 20 per cent. Washington's share of peace-keeping costs would also fall from 31 per cent to 25 per ceni.

Barring a miraculous agree-ment to squeeze higher levels of contribution from fast-growing Asian countries, the budgetary fall-out for Europe could be considerable. The EU countries would prohably see their share of the regular budget rise from 32 per cent now to almost 40 per cent, which is twice what the US is now proposing to pay.

Diplomats are, meanwhile, predicting serious pain for the US inside the organisation. The standing of the US has already been weakened by the dispute. So impaired is American diplomacy here that the new US envoy Bill Richardson has been asking Britain's Sir John

Security Council issues that are important to Washington.

And a more urgent crisis is looming for the US. Unless a very large payment is forth-coming soon, it will fall foul ear-ly next year of Article 19 of the Charter. This stipulates that any country more than two years behind in its contributions must be stripped of its right to vote in the General Assembly.

If the new US ceilings are imposed, the position of Washington in the UN would inevitably be corroded in other, more subtle, ways. People will begin to question

the various perks the US enjoys at the UN in terms of the prominence of their people here," one diplomat warned. The same person, who asked

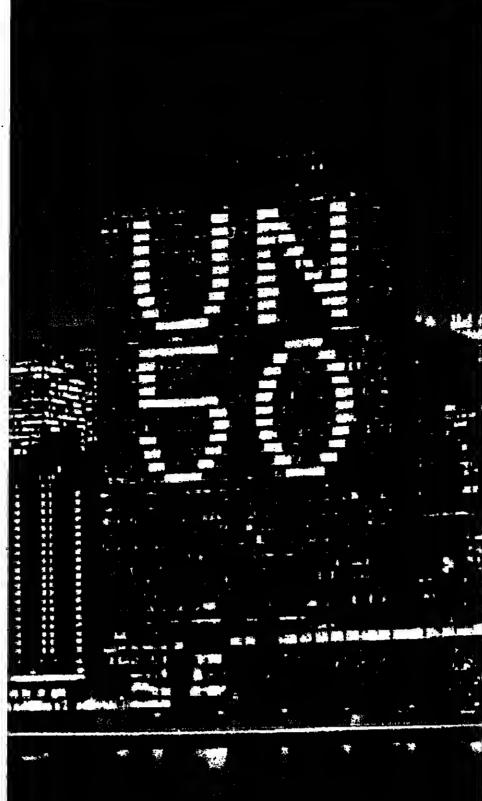
to remain anonymous, also sug-gested that the Security Council would begin turning down any requests for peace-keeping operations that are clearly for the benefit of Washington. "If they asked for an operation like the current mission in

Haiti, for instance, I am afraid Congress would have to pay for it on! of its own pockets". The proposed package would be conditional on the US President pledging to certify annually that the UN is attaining certain goals on internal reform. These would include addition-

al cuts in UN personnel as well

as strict diets for its array of international programmes. The document requires the President to certify that the organisation is not attempting any of the following: to create its own standing army, to impose global taxes to raise funds or in any way undermine the US

Additionally, the UN would have to agree to surrender its accounts every year to scrutiny Congress's own financial auditing body, the General Accounting Office.



Dark outlook: The United Nations building in New York in 1995, lit up to celebrate the UN's 50th anniversary. Cash problems cast a shadow over the future Photograph: Reuters

Scandal-hit [An] Democrats appeal for fresh funds

Mary Dejevsky Washington

The succession of funding scan-dals that has hit the US Democratic Party in recent months has taken a severe toll on the party's finances and the De-mocratic National Council has launched an urgent appeal for

Contributions.

Last night, President Bill

Clinton, and Vice President Al Gore prepared to do their hit for the cause by addressing a dinner in central Washington for several dozen of the party's most prominent supporters. Those attending were to be urged to raise at least 250,000 dollars each over the next two years to see the party through the mid-term legislative elections and prepare the way for the presidential contest in 2000.

The dinner was part of a wider appeal, spearheaded by the party's political strategist, James Carville, to try to rescue the party's ailing finances. The Democrats are \$14m (£8.6m) in deht from last year's presidential election and are in the process of refunding an estimated \$3m dollars in contributions suspected of coming illegally from foreign sources.

In letters that are just starting to arrive in members' mailboxes. Mr Carville describes the situation as "dire" and says the party is already having to cut back its operations.

"Without immediate action," he writes, "any hope of retaking Congress next year, or in 2000, may evaporate before our eyes. In addition, our party could be crippled for years." He also warns: "You'll also be looking at a Republican Congress and a Republican president in

While the letter smacks to an extent of fund-raiser's hyperbole, the finances of the Democratic Party have been far from healthy ever since the turn of the year. Although President Clinton was easily re-elected last November, the campaign was expensive and the party's cof- in 2002.

fers have not been replenish as the party of a second-ter

president might have hope the in his appeal, Mr Carville the blame for the dearth of the wood that the blame for the dearth of the wood that the blame for the dearth of the wood that the blame for the dearth of the wood that the blame for the dearth of the wood that the blame for the dearth of the wood that the blame for the dearth of the wood that the blame for the blame for the dearth of the wood that the blame for the dearth of the wood that the blame for the dearth of the wood that the blame for the dearth of the wood that the blame for the dearth of the wood that the blame for the dearth of the wood that the blame for the dearth of the wood that the blame for the dearth of the wood that the blame for the dearth of the wood that the blame for the dearth of the wood that the blame for the dearth of the wood that the blame for the dearth of the wood that the blame for the dearth of the wood that the blame for the dearth of the wood that the blame for the dearth of the wood the wood the wood the wood that the blame for the dearth of the wood the wo contributions on the Republicans (for exploiting the Denocrats' funding woes). Admitting that the Democrats made some "honest mistakes", he says the Republicans then did "evrything possible ... to drag but party's name through the mid".
The "honest mistakes" in-

clude fund-raising coffee-menings at the White House, the se of White House offices and telephones to solicit campa contributions, and rewards for generous donors, ranging from ed-and-breakfast in the White House Lincoln bedroom to the in the presidential plane. And these, if true, would break mes that forbid the use of the White House for party, rather thin presidential purposes.
In an attempt to limit the

damage to the party from suci accusations, President Clinton agreed to the formation of . congressional committee to in vestigate possible fund-raising abuses by both main parties.

Since reports of fund-raising abuses started to circulate, however, the problem is no longer excessive contributions, but no contributions at all. Two big donors have said they will no longer contribute. Others seem wary of contributing for fear of tarnishing their good name by association, while many individual donors have became cynical. A recent survey should that two-thirds of those a said their elected representatives would be more respons to large political contributors than to their constituents.

The most optimistic outcome of the current problems would be a thorough discussion of ways in which the system could be reformed. The more likely outcome is a Democratic Party machine that is so tainted and strapped for cash that it becomes a serious liability to Al-Gore if he decides to run for president

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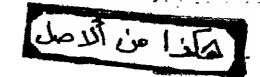
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Any old iron will do for Albania's smugglers

Drugs and guns replaced by scrap as the trafficking trade hits hard times

Andrew Gumbel Shkoder, Albania

Look at these beautiful new villas up on the hillside," said our guide, a hardened northern Alhanian peasant called Toma. "Not so long ago we made a good living around here."

The living in question was sanctions-busting, the illegal transport of petrol over the border to Montenegro during the wars in the former Yugoslavia. Not to mention a little gun-running to Kosovo, drugs trans-shipment to Europe and any number of rackets in stolen consumer goods from western Europe.

protracted chaos following ment (a fraction of what was this spring's anti-government prisings smuggling in Albania has become a more uncertain, less democratic, business, The major rackets in drugs and arms are continuing, but without the mass involvement of ordinary Albanians. The dred yards away from the Shkoder region - an impoverished area largely populated by agricultural small holders depends on illegal traffic for a living. But these days the megabucks of oil smuggling have given way to the pathetic trade in scrap metal. Every day, up to 150 lorries - weighed down with rusting pieces of old cars and obsolete industrial machinery - trundle their way to an officially non-existent border crossing between the sea and Lake Shkoder and make the fortuous six-hour journey to



Watching brief: Top Italian prosecutor Pier Luigi Vigna

the Montenegrin state-owned foundry in Niksic.

It's a thankless, if efficiently rganised, business. One Moniegrin middleman monitors the border, handing out "certificates" guaranteeing the lorries safe passage. In Niksic, another middleman takes delivery of the scrap, weighing it and promising payment within seven days or so.

Everyone is paid off, from the Albanian policemen monitoring the bridge across the Buna river leading to the border crossing, to the Montenegrin officials involved at every step of the process. The foundry pays a private import-export company for the scrap in Yugoslav dinars. and the company then passes on the proceeds in German marks - minus a considerable cut for

itself - to the truck drivers. In theory, it is a traffic that makes everyone happy: the Montenegrins because they can buy scrap at a fraction of the market price, and the truck drivers because they can feed

WAH ARLE FRO



their families. In reality, though, it is not much of a trade at all, since the truck drivers earn no With the country in a state of more than £100 per consignearned at the height of the oil bonanza) and the Montenegrins are forever playing games by witholding payment or creating problems at the border. A unit of the Yugoslav army special forces stationed a few huncrossing is forever preventing the truck drivers from returning home, occasionally arrest-

ing individuals and - according

to Montenegrin police sources

- beating them up. In the past couple of weeks the Albanian authorities, no douht made nervous by the presence of international troops monitoring their activities, have imposed obstacles of their own, turning hack trucks coming up to the border from central or southern Alhania. Smuggled scrap metal nevertheless remains the main source of export revenue for Albania, according to the prosecutor's office in the capital, Tirana, and offers a telling insight into the sheer misery into which the Albanian economy has been plunged.

Not only has the productive economy ground to a halt, but government revenues have dried up because the state no longer controls key customs points and is unable to collect taxes. Inflation is galloping towards 100 per cent a year, and the lek is plummeting in value against the dollar. All consumer goods are effectively smuggled into the country, particularly in the southern port of Saranda, where the rebels who took over the lower half of Albania in February and March

are in complete control. The rebels have also devel oped sophisticated racketeering operations, notably in the high quality marijuana grown in the flatlands of the south. Italian prosecutors say their police are seizing several hundred kilos of the drug every day - a fraction of the true amount believed to be flooding Italy and the rest of western Europe.

Until the multinational force arrived, most of the marijuana was going out from the port of Vlora, hut regular patrols by Italian navy corvettes have encouraged the smugglers to divert the traffic elsewhere. In Lexha, halfway between Tirana and Shkoder, one petrol station attendant said husiness was booming like never before. hecause the town was now being used as a transit point for marijuana and the beneficiaries gas-guzzling Mercedes. Hard drugs, particularly heroin, are still passing through Albania from Turkey and the

Italy's chief anti-Mafia prosecutor, Pier Luigi Vigna. All of Albania's neighbours are afraid of an influx of arms, now that eastern Balkans, but are now

had all bought themselves being transported over land Albanian households are hrimrather than by sea, according to ming with Kalashnikovs and submachine guns. But so far there seems to be no organised weapons smuggling operation.

Among ordinary Alhanians,

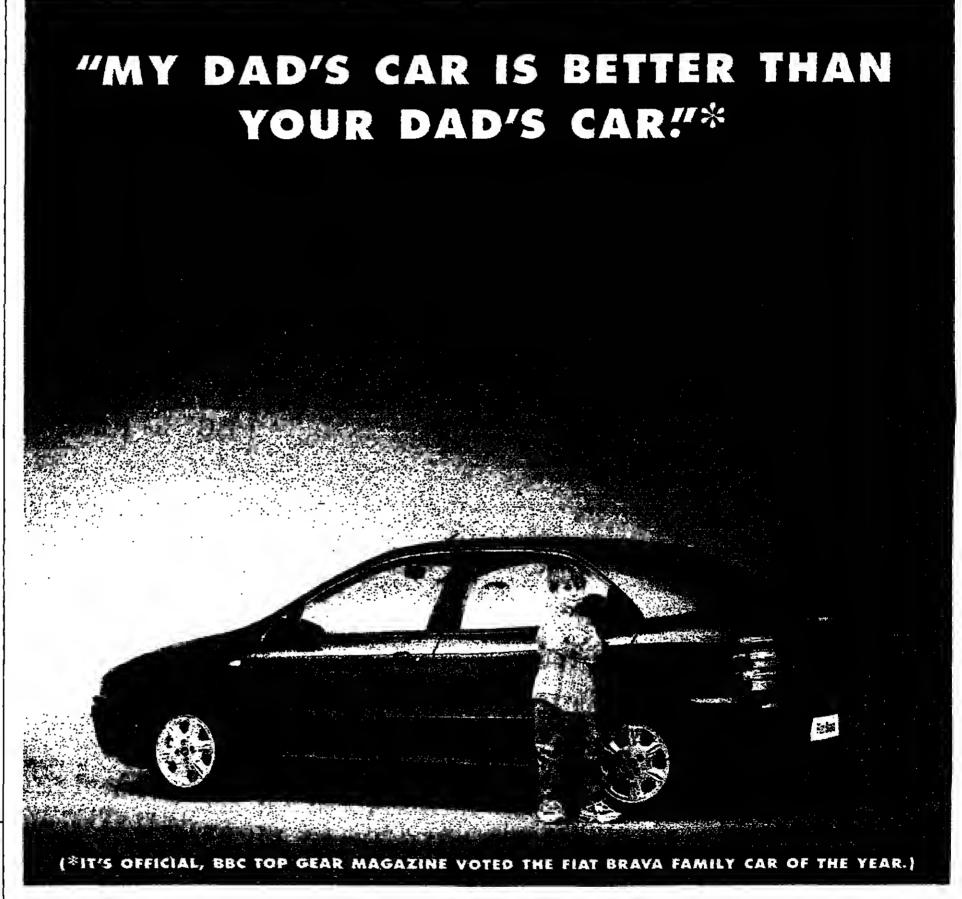
so-called pyramid investment schemes, a kind of smuggling frenzy appears to have set in, with all attempts to earn a living being attempted, no mat-

impoverished by the collapse of ter how absurd. At a deserted army hase on the road to Shkoder, a group of smugglers were recently seen pulling an abandoned tank to pieces and loading the metal pieces on to the official report.

All at sea: Smuggling in Albania has been reduced to a frenzy in the search for something to sell. Powerboat owners play cat and mouse with the Italian coastguard to ply their illegal trade Photograph: AP

a truck for sale across the border. In various seaside towns in the south, owners of fast powerboats play nightly games of cat and mouse with the Italian coastguard, knowing that their vessels travel faster.

The most wondrous story, however, comes from the border with Macedonia, where a group of Albanians determined to make a fast huck decided to bypass normal frontier controls by driving a stolen Mercedes along a mountain track and then physically carrying it over a pass for sale on the other side. After much grunting and heaving, they were finally caught, dazed and exhausted, by an incredulous Macedonian police patrol. The fate of the Mercedes was not recorded in



Because you want your kids to enjoy the best of everything, you really must take a look at the Fiat Brava. After all. BBC Top Gear magazine rate it this year's best family car. That's partly because the Brava doesn't look like a family car. (Put a

eardboard box next to the photo above. See, no resemblance whatsoever.) And in this case appearances are not deceptive. The Brava is also stylish and carefully designed on the inside. Of course, careful design means safe design. The Bravn ELX features a driver's airbag. ABS and remote control central locking. And for convenience, electric door mirrors, windows and

sun-roof. The thoughtful inclusion of a 6 speaker CD compatible radio-ensectte means you can drown the sound of noisy offspring with a tweak of the volume hutton. And because Top Gear won't be the only ones to covet the Fiat Brava ELX, the car is fitted with an alarm and a Fiat CODE immobiliser. It means that only you and your sprogs can enjoy the refined 1.6 or sporty 1.8 engines. (Alternatively, you could plumb for the 1.9 turbo diesel if you want to save

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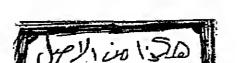




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Jill Neville

Jill Neville published seven novels in the 30 years 1966-96 and was the author of The Poet and the Goddess, a play about Robert Graves and Laura Riding, which was staged at Oxford. the Chehenham Festival and the Everyman Theatre, Hampstead, in 1995. For many years she was the Sunday Times chief fiction reviewer: latterly she wrote in the Independent. She also had a controversial London column in the Australian, Sydney.

As an active member of the Council of the Royal Society of Literature (she was elected a Fellow in 1995), she had organised the society's 1997 spring ecture programme, which played to packed houses. But she herself did not witness them. Always abnormally healthy, she was struck down early in the year by liver cancer; she came to terms with her

painful plight with dignity.

The Oxford Companion to
Twentieth-Century Literature in English praises Neville's "spare style", her "wiry wit and often startling imagery". When The Day We Cut the Lavender was published in 1995 the Australian High Commission in London hailed it, after her two earlier novels set all or in part in her native country, Last Ferry to Manly (1984) and Swimming the Channel (1993), as "the last of a classic Australian trilogy".

Jill Adelaide Neville was born in Sydney, New South Wales, in 1932, almost at the height of the Depression in Australia. She dreamt as a girl of growing up an artist - poet, dancer, actress or writer of stories. Her grandmother Laura McKnight was a well-known Sydney diva; her grandfather the owner of a private library in New South Wales. Her father, Colonel Clive Neville, came from a large Sydney family, among whose military scions were a survivor of the Charge of the Light Brigade and Australia's most decorated First World War soldier, Daulton

She began writing as a child and her stubboro sense of vocation was at once under attack. When her father returned from a triumphant war bearing samurai swords and silk parachutes for his daughters to make perticoats, he was displeased that the younger seemed to have "swallowed the dictionary".

He packed her off to a draconian boarding-school in the Blue Mountains called Osborne Ladies College to make, as it were, a man of her. She thrived at this eccentric place, which pretended to be a boat with its English "Admiral" headmistress (her retired father's rank) parading "my gels" on Empire Day to sing "Rule Britannia" in front of the Katoomha War

Her mother Betty, though an intellectual and newspaper columnist, echoed the colonel's concern about her "fey" and "impractical" daughter, ensuring that she became the star pupil of a husiness company (a Military Road, Mossman (a Fining Betty upil of a husiness college in Sydney suhurb). Typing, Betty Neville believed, was the key to a woman's independence. It stood her daughter in good stead as an audio-typist at the Daily Mirror in Sydney and, later, the BBC in London. A striking beauty with shoulder-length auburn hair.

"Blue", as she was known, was established by 17 as the Madonna of Sydney artistic life, known then as "The Push". Early "older men" escorts included Keith Miller, the cricketerturoed-Mirror sportswriter, Murray Sayle, who wore a hlue fedora and wrote a gossip col-umn as "Mr Midnight", and the painter and eroticist Norman Lindsay. Max Harris, who flew the (looely) flag of art and literature via his South Australia syndicated column was a profound admirer of "Blue's" modern verse and huge eyes, all the more when he learnt she had been conceived in Adelaide, hence her middle name.

She published poems and stories in little magazines, but her sights were targeted on London. Saving ferociously until she had acquired the £80 "Under 21" steamer fare, she sailed for London with an attractive friend, Judy Gillespie.

Thanks to unlikely literary serendipity, a fellow passenger proved to be the aspiring poet Peter Porter. They became lifelong friends. Soon after arriving in Chelsea, Judy met a handsome haronet she subsequently married and returned decorously to Mossman. The Nevilles hoped at least as much of their own eminently marriageable daughter. When she acquired a Chelsea houseboat,

green fingernails and a Sallv Bowles cigarette holder, as "Blue" was transmogrified into Jill, Betty paid a memorable and angry visit to ensure her daughter was leading the Right Kind of Life.

An optimistically choreographed "Welcome Mum" party ended in alcohol and "reefer"-fuelled chaos. A wrecked hlack saxophonist, an exotic in Betty's 1950s Sydney vision, fell into the Thames. Ignoring pleas to return, Jill was swept into the pub society of poets and jazzmen patronising the French, Muriel's and other cultural outposts in Fitzrovia

This Bohemian, unconventional society was just to Neville's taste, and when years later, tiring of its incessant emotional demands, she fled to Paris with her seven-year-old daughter Judy in a red mini, she fell at once into George's Bar in the Rue des Canettes, and so a Parisian version of similar raffish and often gifted people based around the Coupole, the Sélect, and La Clôserie des Lilas in Montparnasse.

Although in some ways a man's woman, Jill Neville had a gift for deep and long female friendships. Her guru and London mother-figure was the Ca-nadian novelist Elizaheth Smart, author of By Grand Central Station I Sat Down and Wept, and for three decades she was close to Barbara Blackburn, widow of the Labour MP Raymond Blackhurn, and Mary Tuck, the senior civil servant.

Thanks to Smart, as a young expatriate Neville found herself well off by the female standards of the time, working with, among others, Fay Weldon and Ted Hughes's friend Assia Wevill, as Creative People at J. Walter Thompson, Bensons and a handful of other leading ad agencies. Thanks to Smart, whom she loved as much as she hated her consort, the poet George Barker, she published plays and short stories in Harper's & Queen and Alan Ross's London Magazine, and completed her first novel, Fall

Published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson in 1966, hrilliantly edited by Tony Godwin, here was a picaresque "woman's" novel ahead of its time, as well as a thinly disguised à clef ac-



count of a brief affaire with the American poet Robert Lowell. It was written in deft and sharpedged prose honed by professional copy-writing skills, but her terrain was literary London at a lurid moment, particularly around Soho. A witty, sexy and hlessedly short-winded tale, it was meat and drink to jaded, often male critics. They lavished compliments, citing Anais Nin, Djuna Barnes, Jean Rhys and, of course, Smart in a pantheon of influences. One review called it "the best first novel by a woman" since The Dud Avocado, the hest-selling title hy Elaine Dundy, first wife of the

Film options followed, and thereafter Neville was able to work as a writer/journalist at home full-time, continuing as a

critic Ken Tynan.

freelance copywriter for Thompson's in London, Paris

and, later, Sydney. In 1960 Neville met, married and separated from the memorahly rumhustious South African poet and broadcaster Peter Duval-Smith, by whom she had a daughter, Judy. Neville and Duval-Smith had met by the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead one day when Duval-Smith had stormed out of the famously fiery menage à trois he shared with the poet William Empson and his longtime wife Hetta. The women quarrelled violently both before and after the marriage broke down but in later years they reached an accommodation. In the meantime Duval-Smith had fathered more children and he died a violent death in the Hotel Royale, Saigon, in 1967

while working as a war correspondent for the BBC. When Jill Neville's younger hrother Richard came to London and started Oz magazine the Good Sister put him up in her Cleveland Square flat with his friend Louise Ferrier. Because of a "life-style" extreme even by Jill's own standards, which did not tolerate police husts, she was relieved when he moved to Palace Gardens Terrace in Notting Hill Gate.

A London of hippies was too soft-minded for her, and soon after moving to Paris she hecame obsessed and involved with the student revolt of May 1968. In her novel The Love Germ (1970), she tells an outrageous and retrospectively almost innocent story of a chain

of Paris lovers transmitting what now seems a comparatively harmless sexual disease to each other while celebrating the revolution

During the Paris revolution she had been involved with the extreme "Street Left" Italian politician Angelo Quattrocchi, but left him after a conflict involving her friend Smart's daughter Rosie Barker. After 1969 she took up with and later married David Leitch, then Paris correspondent of the Sunday Times and New Statesman. A son, Luke, was born hut they were divorced in 1981, and Neville first lived with and then married Professor Lewis Wolpert, the University College London geneticist.

They proved a highly com-patible and entertaining couple and were well-known for their parties.

David Leitch

One of the joys of friendship with Jill Neville was that she as she sometimes said of other people - "lightened one's soul", writes Rath Dudley Edwards. She would harness her formidable intellect and her passion for literature in service to frivolity. A classic example came dur-

ing a Christmas holiday in her Normandy cottage a few years ago. I was exhausted, and Jill a great physical, as well as spiritual, nurturer - had decided to wait on me hand and foot. This involved her casting me as an irascible aristocrat, herself as Greasy Joan - a hobbling, halfwitted slut - and a fellow guest, Stephen Cang, as Bunter, a classy hut sardonic hutler. Throughout the week, my servants held innumerable and ever ruder conversations just within my earshot about the egregiousness, snohbery and capriciousness of "Er Lady-ship": to Jill's delight, I repaid the compliment by giving her a walk-on part in my next book as a slattern with a wall eye, a hump and an exaggerated limp, who was a victim of Fens in-

hreeding. When I needed some atrocious verse in my next two novels. Jill, who was a good poet, took on the job giggling. I par-ticularly appreciated her animal rights version of "Jerusalem", which began "And did those paws in ancient times / Scam- June 1997.

per on England's mountains green?", though her evangeli-cal poem - "Clean your teeth for Jesus" - ran it close.

A phone-call from Jill usually presaged laughter, drama or an escapade, though often too it was a demand for a thoroughly rewarding evening of talk. She was a wonderful confidente. for she revelled in her friends good fortune, sympathised intelligently when times were bad and always encouraged one to take chances and trust in one's Jill's own career had more

highs and lows than most, and she wore her professional triumphs with grace and her re-verses with the gallantry that distinguished her approach to death. It was a great disap-pointment of the last few years that, despite her heroic efforts. her play about Robert Graves and Laura Riding, which bril-liantly and wittily mocked the silliness of intellectuals, was never put on commercially. Yet there was the consolation that her last novel, The Day We Cut the Lavender, was one of her most successful. Not only did its treatment of drug addictions but it showed her exceptional gift for describing sensual

pleasure.

Jill had acquired wisdom through hard experience, and she expressed it in a way that lodged in one's mind. A couple of years ago, when she was hold-ing my hand through a bereavement, she warned me of the dangers of letting talent dis-sipate. "Your friend died at 50," she said. "When you reach middle age, you have to look at life as you would look at your last package of typing paper, you can't afford to waste any of it."

Jill Neville wasted none of it. She was - in another of her favourite words - a "Mensch", and a loving and inspirital in the lives of her friends.

Jill Adelaide Neville, novelist, playwright and poet born Sydney: Australia 29 May 1932; FRSL 1995; married 1960 Peter Duval-Smith (died 1967; one daughter; marriage dissolved 1962), 1970 David Leitch (one son; marriage dissolved 1981), 1993 Professor Lewis Wolpert: died London 11

Nine years ago I was able to

Paul Reade



Reade: pianist and songwriter for BBC TV'e Playschool

It is perhaps not surprising that it should be the large-scale ballet scores - Hobson's Choice (1989) and Far from the hrought Paul Reade's music to the attention of the wider audience which he deserved, since so many of his shorter works, including cartoon and television scores, had already demonstrated his ability to paint character in a few deft strokes, and to evoke colour and atmosphere with incredible economy. These two collaborations with David Bintley, staged at the Royal Opera House and indeed all over the country, represented in some ways the summary of a creative period which would have been followed by

planned to write. Reade studied piano with Alan Richardson at the Royal Academy of Music, and had his first orchestral piece, Overture to a City, performed in 1965 by the Academy Orchestra under Maurice Handford - the first of many of his works hroadcast on

more of the abstract music he

Radio 3. His natural pianistic ability took him on to the London Opera Centre before be-Wells Opera in 1966.

Although elements of the ioh were uncongenial for someone of Reade's quiet temperament, it provided the opportunity to acquire a detailed knowledge of opera, and a technical understanding of how the great composers tackled the stage - which not only helped his development as a composer, hut always provided him with the greatest pleasure. He moved on to BBC TV in

the late Sixties, becoming the pianist and songwriter for the children's programme Playschool for several years. Children's television helped him to develop his facility in word-setting and to write fluently and effectively for a small number of instruments, which led in turn to some highly successful cartoon series - Crystal Tipps and Alistair and Ludwig amongst them. Classic serials like A Tale of Two Cities (1980) and Jane Evre

(1983) revealed a television composer of the highest quality. Reade was always a marvelcoming a répétiteur with Sadler's lous technician, and he once SUIDISCO A BBC SOUND CHRINECI who was mixing the music for Jane Eyre by telling him that it was too loud ("No composer has ever told me that hefore!" was the response), but this was not false modesty on his part, just a real understanding of how the medium works best. His iltle music for The Antiques Roadshow (1990) and The Victorian Kitchen Gurden (1987) are typical examples of his fluency.

As a composer who unhesitatingly embraced tonal music. Reade was without any hitterness towards a musical establishment which disregarded such thoroughly enjoyable and often challenging - music. He was a modest man, but with a confident belief in his music, and a wry self-awareness.

I met Paul Reade in 1975 when I was invited to conduct the first performance of a children's opera he was writing -David and Goliath. This fulllength opera is an absolutely ated his technical understanding marvellous addition to the of the instrument's qualities, genre: as I soon learnt to expect and he was happy to learn from tul. rhythmical great fun and totally unpatronising. I was hooked, and remain so. I was lucky enough to be able to commission several choral works from him, including the imaginative Ballads of Judas Iscariot (1988). It was a joy to have Reade

around when rehearsing his music - a mixed hlessing with some composers. Often after the first rehearsal of a new work the telephone would ring and Reade would say. "You know, I don't think I needed to repeat that figure, and those two bars are certainly unnecessary . . . " As rehearsals went by the new work would become shorter and shorter (half-a-bar here. two bars there) hut always better and hetter.

He was always successful in getting what he wanted from performers without ever being anything but helpful. Singers and instrumentalists alike appreci-

from this composer, it was time- the artists. Writing for the soorano Elizabeth Harwood, he was fascinated to discover one of his songs working better for her when transposed into a key he thought would be much too high. The Chants du Roussillon he wrote for her were a result of his first trip to Moura Lympany's Rasigueres Festival in the early Eighties along with members of the Manchester Camerata: the first performance took place in the caves at Rasiguères in 1990.

He formed an excellent bond with the Camerata which resulted in many successful works being premiered in Manchester, including some notable works for children subsequently broadcast on radio, such as Cinderella (1980) and The Mi-das Touch (1982). The atmosphere in Rasiguères, coupled with a love of French music, led to a beautiful Flute Concerto (1985), commissioned by the Camerata and performed all

programme this Flute Coocerto in a concert at St John's Smith Square with the strings the London Mozart Players, and suggested to Paul Reade that their then principal flautist, Philippa Davies, would be an excellent choice as soloist. The superb performance she gave that night was the beginning of a marvellous partnership with Reade. Their complementary personalities, their respect and support for each other's career and the obvious love they felt for each other warmed all their friends; their recent marriage was a truly joyful occasion. When Reade's illness was diagnosed the dignity with which they both faced it and fought it was remarkable.

Peter Broadben

Paul Geoffrey Reade, composer born Liverpool 10 January 1943; married 1965 Mary Clark (one son, one daughter, marriage dis solved 1985). 1997 Philippa Davies: died London 7 June

Births. **Marriages** & Deaths

BIRTHS

ADAMS: On 2 June, to June (née Law) and Giles, a daughter, Sophia, a sister for James,

ANNIVERSARIES

WINTRINGHAM / PENNING-ROWSELL: On 12 June 1937, at Chelsea Old Church, Londoo SW3, Margaret Wintringham to Edmund Penning-Rowsell. Now living in Woot-ion. Woodstock, Oxford OX20 1EG.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS. MARRIAGES & DEATHS may be telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering mochine 0171-293 2012) or faxed ta 0171-393 2010, and are charged

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS through performance to mark the special of special or special of the special of t

Changing of the Guard

Birthdays

Mr George Bush, former president of the United States, 73; Mr Mark Calcavecchia, golfer, 37; Mr Charles Clark, lawyer and publisher, 64; Mr John Copley, operatic producer, 64; The Earl of Cromartic, Chief of the Clan Mackenzie, 49; Mr Vic Damone, singer, 69; Mr Michael Fab-ricant MP, 47; Sir Peter Froggatt, Pro-Chancellor, Dublin University. 69; Lady Herries of Terregles, race-horse trainer, 59; Sir Kenneth Hollings, former High Court judge, 79; Mr Pat Jennings, footballer, 32; Mr Peter Jooes, actor. 77; Sir Paul Kennedy, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 62; Mr Oliver Knussen, composer and conductor, 45; Lord McCluskey, Secator in the College of Justice in Scotland, 68; Dr Ernest Mario, cohairman and chief executive, Alza Corporation, Palo Alto, 59, Mr John W.MeW. Thompson, former Editor of the Sunday Telegraph, 77; Mr John Townend MP, 63.

Anniversaries

Births: Sir Richard Fanshawe, diplo-mai, translator and poet, baptised 1608; Charles Kingsley, oovelist. 1819; Sir Oliver Joseph Lodge, physicist, 1851; Robert Anthony Eden, first Earl of Avon, statesman, 1897; Brigid Antonia Brophy (Lady Levey), novclist, 1929: Anne Frank, young Jew-Collins, poet, 1759; John Nicholson treland, composer, 1962; Sir Herben Read, poet and critic, 1968; Dame Marie Rambert (Cyvia Rambam), vallet producer, director and teacher 1982. On this day: Magdalen College, Oxford, was founded, 1458; the Rotherhithe-Stepney Timnel beneath the Thames was opened, 1908; the Beatles were appointed MBE, 1965; Boris Yultsin was elected president

of the Russian Republic, 1991. Today is the Feast Day of St Eskill, St John of Sahagun, St Leo III, pope, St Odul-

Lecturea tional Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, Baptists (ii): Piero della Francesca. The Baptism of Christ", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Catherine Wilson, "The Work of the della Robbia Family", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Suzanne Coller, "In Search of the Universal: lotens and archetypes in the work of Jackson Pollock and David Smith", tpm. British Moseum: George Hart, Temples of Egyptian Nubia. Notional Portrait Gallery: Jenny Ramkalawon, "Portraiture and Adornment in the 18th Century",

King's College London, Londoo SE1: Lord Plant of Highfield, "Ser-vice and Accountability in the Pub-

Luncheons

English-Speaking Union Lord McNally, Vice-Chairman, Shaodwick Consultants, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon held vesterday at the English-Speaking Union, London W1. He spoke on "Constitutional Reform: the key in the door". Lord Ezra was in

Receptions

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Mr Robin Cook MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a reception vesterday evening in the Locarno Rooms, Foreign and Com-

monwealth Office, Londoo SW1, to mark the Queeo's Official Birthday.

Dinners Coechmakers' and Coach Harness

Makers' Company
Mr James Smillie. Master of the Wor-

shipful Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers, enter-tained the Lord Mayor of London, Mr Roger Cork, the Sheriffs and their ladies to dinner yesterday evening at the Mansioo House, Londoo EC4. Mr Robert Croall. Senior Warden and Miss Jan Leeming were the

Schools

King's Coilege School. Wimbledon The following elections have been made by King's College School for September 1997:

Majer Scholars: Iqhal Nasım (King's College Junior School, Classies Award); Nicholas Johnston (KCJS); John Ryan (KCJS); Bene-dict Gearing (Rokeby, Modern Language Award).

Awara; Scholurs: Ricki Gidoomal (KCIS); Junathan Hopkins (Shiewshury House); Robert Davies (KCIS); Nighrlas Raesank Brown (Milbourne (KCJS): Nichelas Ruesank-Brown (Milbourne Ledge): Jonathan Bamford (The Maill): Matthew Chessum III tomefield): Rechard Sik (KCJS): Andrew Mountjoy (KCJS): Rabbitioners: Oftice Creiscy (Homefield): David Wigg (KCJS): Rubert Bamford (The Maill): Milliew Cheers (The Maill): David Lewin (Roledy): James Anderson (KCJS): Rupert Ity (Shressbur, House; Damel Wendom (Roledy): Pro Tejasakulson (Wilmeton): per II) (Shrewsbury Home); Damel Wendom (Rokeby), Pita Tejasakulan (Willington); Nicholas Sautham (King's House). Music Scholars: Mark Pullinger (Westmin ler Cathedral Choir Schools: David Levon

Rokehy).

Music Echibitioners; James Browning (The Mail); Ricki Guleennal (KCJS); Maithew Owens (The Mail).

Junior School Scholars; Ralph Michell (East Sheen Primary School); Pradheep Shammigalingam (Coumbe Hill Junior School, Kingston); Nicholas Later (Wimbledon Classe Maidle School); Setti Broman (Sheen Mount Primary School).

Camden, ex parte Mohammed: Oneen's Bench Division Crown Office List (Mr Justice Latham);

22 May 1997

A housing authority's policy not to provide interim accommodation, unless there were exceptional reasons, to a person seeking a review under section 202 of the Housing Act 1996 or appealing to the county council under section 204 of the Act, following a decision that he or she was not homeless, was not unlawful. The councit must. however, in deciding whether there were exceptional reasons, take into account certain material considerations.

The applicant's application for judicial review of the council's decision not to provide her with interim accommodation. pending review of its decision that she was not homeless, succeeded on the ground that the council had failed to take into account a relevant consideration when deciding that there were no exceptional reasons in her case to depart from its policy of not providing such accommodation.

The applicant had applied to the council to be treated as homeless and in priority need. The council decided that she was not homeless. She asked

LAW REPORT

Interim accommodation policy was lawful

for a review of the decision pursuant to section 202 of the Housing Act 1996, and for interim accommodation pending the review. The council refused to extend interim accommodation, concluding that the applicant did not fall within its policy for the provision of such accommodation. The policy was stated to be that temporary accommodation pending a review was not provided unless there were exceptional reasons.

Stephen Knafler (Bindman & Partners) for the applicant; Christopher Baker (Council Solicitor) for the

Mr Justice Latham said that the Housing Act 1996, unlike it predecessors, made provision by section 202 for a formal process of review by the housing authority and, by section 204, for an appeal on a point of law from such a review to the county court. Pending both a review and an appeal the local housing authority was given a discretionary power to

provide interim housing. The applicant had argued that the Act could not have in-

person seeking relief from a decision of a local housing authority, adverse to him or her, should be worse than it would have been prior to the passing of the Act. It was submitted that the policy expressed by the council must be unlawful in so far as

exercise to cases where exceptional reasons could be shown. Looking at the structure of the Act, it seemed to follow from the unfettered right of an applicant to ask for a review that it clearly did not envisage that the discretionary power

it purported to restrict its

person. From the evidence before the court it seemed that there had been very many requests for reviews under section 202 but very few had been found to have merit. In those circumstances it seemed that the use of the phrase "exceptional reasons" could properly be

understood to reflect reality. The important question was whether, in applying that phrase, it was apparent that tended that the position of a council had either failed to take

into account material considerations or had otherwise displayed irrationality.

In carrying out that balancing exercise there were certain matters which would always require consideration, namely: the merits of the case, and the extent to which it could properly be said that the decision was one which either appeared to be contrary to the merits, or was one which required a very fine balance of judgment and could go either way; whether there was any new material put before the housing authority which could have a real effect on the decision under review; and the personal circumstances of the applicant and the consequences to him or her of an adverse decision.

would be exercised as a matter In the present case the counof course in favour of such a cil had fallen into error in that it had come to adverse conclusions as to the applicant's account of her circumstances on the hasis of what were said to he discrepancies, but did not appear to have attempted to put those discrepancies to the applicant to see whether she could answer them, or whether they were based on a misunderisanding. In consequence the council's decision must be quashed.

Kate O'Hanion, Barrister

Patents pre-

plagiarism

Flawed S

of green

electricit

Britain's role in a reformation of Europe

urope is in a mess. The Franco-German alliance, that great motor of unification common alliance, that great already showing signs of being - as the currency and all, is stuttering. The recent meeting of European christian democrats paralleling the socialists' lovefest in Sweden disclosed, not for the first time, deep divisions in basic concepts of Europe. The intellectual underpinnings of post-Maastricht European unity, never very secure, are coming advirt. British commentators and politicians must not gloat -especially Labour ministers who owe their present good Eurofortune to opt-out clauses negotiated by the Tories. We cannot simply play the innocent bystander. If the project for a common currency on the existing timetable comes a cropper, some pieces will have to be put back together - not for the sake of some mistaken historicisi conception of European unity, but for the sake of oational security promoted by trade, continental harmony and shared sovereignties. The Blair government ought to go to the Amsterdam summit determined to protect our position, on borders as on defence. But at the same time Britain's representatives need not just to be thinking ahead to the next move in the Union diplomatic game but thinking hard about the refor-

mation of Europe in the new century. Never say never. Helmut Kohl is a determined and resourceful politician. So too, though he has shown little sign of it lately, is Jacques Chirac. On Europe. Germans politely put it - oscillierend, it is conceivable that, over the next few days, the recent raucousness surrounding the common currency will die down. The Christian Social Union, the party to which German finance minister Theo Waigel belongs, may stop sniping across the Rhine. The new French government meanwhile may complete its "re-reading" of the stability pact that is to accompany the establishment of an independent European central bank, and which is due to be signed in Amsterdam next week. Some anodyne form of words about jobs and social stability may by added in Amsterdam. The train gets back on track. It's conceivable.

But it's inconceivable that the Kohl government will cut and tax to meet the convergence criteria without opening its political flank to the left. It's inconceivable, also, that the Italian state will undergo a miraculous transformation and get its fiscal act together. That means, unless Lionel Jospin swallows his election promise that the euro would not go ahead without Italy, that the common currency will be born soft - and that in turn means most of the fiscal fear and louthing in France and Germany over recent years will have been in vain.

All of that has to do with the practical problems of EMU. Perhaps more telling is how during the past few days profound gaps have opened underneath the the-



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ory. This is about more than the French government being social-conservative while the German coalition is conservative-liberal. Fundamental questions about the size and capacity of government are being prompted; questions which, thanks to the Thatcher experience, seem to have been answered to the electorate's satisfaction here. The paradox is that the common currency comes from the political right, from the neo-liberal side of economics. It is four square with the original common market idea. defined (according to a German Social Democrat who wanted nothing to do with it) as conservative, capitalist and

clerical. The conceit of Jacques Delors as Commission president was to suggest that somehow, without changing the basic institutional landscape or profound renegotiation, Europe could become a "socialist" guarantor of jobs and employ-ment rights. Prime Minister Thatcher made the great error of believing him. Naturally the French government is confused. It is signing up to a banker-dominated Europe with one hand while with the other using its position as a Renault shareholder to demand the postponement of the closure of its Vilvoorde plant. as if governments can will consumers into buying Meganes and Espaces.

circles is visible in Brussels. The main argument for a single currency is that it will allow the European countries better to compete, globally, by facilitating internal trade and empowering European companies to beat the Americans, Japanese and other Asians. This is a good argument, though not a guaranteed outcome. But how does it line up with the philosophy of high employment costs, exemplified in remarks by the Social Affairs Commissioner reported vesterday, to the effect that worker participation in European companies was "a necessity". Perhaps there is, as the Socialist International at Malmo proposed, 'a new economic and social model sufficiently supple to consolidate the position of Europe in the world without prejudicing our environmental and social norms." But the European Union is many miles away from conceptualising such a thing, let alone agreeing it.

There are indications this week that the Germans may now agree to delay the curo, pushing into 1999 the tripwire decision to go ahead that is due next May. Amid present confusion this seems like common sense. The would-be Social Democrat contender Gerhard Schröder raises the intriguing thought that a functioning stability pact could then precede the move to a common currency.

Such a delay is the least of what is needed. The idea that the Brits can come riding in on a charger is anachronistic

The same kind of attempt to square and arrogant. But somebody is going to have to put up papers and say awkward, realistic things. Like, is Maastricht II actually needed, especially when it seems to contain nothing to address the question of EU expansion to the East beyond some tinkering with majority voting in the council of ministers. The British presidency next year will prove its worth not by saying no, nor unthinkingly yes, but by practical, limited proposals for rescuing European integration from its muddles and evasions.

All change at Transport

Merging the Environment and Trans-port Departments makes sense. It is not just that after the privatisation of airports and railways there was so much less for Transport to do. Decisions about transport infrastructure affect local authorities, regional development and the physical environment: all the more reason for lodging them in Environment. So Whitehall is dispensing with the services of Sir Patrick Brown, permanent secretary at Transport. He has been a loyal and efficient civil servant but if he cares for the good name of his colleagues he will avoid taking jobs anywhere near the rail or water husinesses, having been so close to their privatisation.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Flawed siting of 'green' electricity

OVe

Sir: Nothing would induce me to the start of the supplied with "green" electricity (report, 5 June), as long as this would be interpreted by the wind-power industry as encouragement for further landscape despoliation of our most beautiful open countryside. Present plans are to erect 10,000 turbines – each as high as Big Ben - mainly in

our prime recreational landscapes.
Such appallingly damaging siting is not entirely the wind-power industry's fault. This government has inherited a flawed renewables rolling which forces the industry. policy, which forces the industry

into seeking such sites.

The tragedy is that we do need to develop renewables and the present clumsy market approach -which places the landscape's value at zero - is making more thoughtful solutions harder to achieve. OHN'S LEDWARDS Monmouth

Sir: Your report (5 June) that consumers will be able to buy green electricity following liberalisation of the domestic energy market from April 1998 suggested that this new opportunity was first unveiled at the Climate Change conference organised by the World Wide Fund for Nature. For 18 months, Friends of the Earth has been at the forefront of this new agenda.

In the run-up to liberalisation, it is essential that all electricity consumers receive information from their electricity companies on the fuel they use. Consumers receive little or no environmental information from their regional electricity company on the product

they buy. The regional electricity companies have a key role to play in educating the public on the contribution to climate change from different fuel sources, and on the need to use electricity far more efficiently and from renewable sources. For such a scheme to work, it would bave to he mandatory and have the backing of government. DI PATRICK GREEN Friends of the Earth

Sir: It is a good idea for consumers to be allowed to choose electricity from renewable sources, but with price differences of perhaps 10 per cent, individuals would be likely to reject the hurden of change being transferred from the electricity companies to themselves.

. If VAT relief was debated as an option to close the price gap to more realistic levels. Labour would bave the opportunity of demonstrating where they stand in the areas of progressive environmentalism and profitoriented utilities. MARK WALMSLEY Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire

Patents prevent plagiarism

Sir: Sam Clarke's letter, which you published (10 June) under the heading "Biotech patents hamper research", betrays a misunderstanding of the patent system and the proposals contained in the draft Directive on the Protection of Biotechnolugical

Patents do not hamper research. inventions. Many jurisdictions have a statutory mechanism to give effect to this principle. In the UK for example, the Patents Act 1977 exempts from



infringement something which "is done for experimental purposes relating to the subject-matter of the [patented] invention". What a patent does is to enable the proprietor of an invention to control for a timited period of time its commercial exploitation, and rightly so; without patents, plagiarism would be rife, innovators and their backers would be denied the often necessary incentive to invest, and proprietors of inventions would resort to the only (and imperfect) alternative of trade secrecy, thereby massively inhibiting research.

The draft Directive would do

nothing to remove the public's (or a competitor's) ability to seek to revoke a patent which they believe has been wrongly granted, using the procedures laid down in the Patents Act 1977 or the European Patent Convencion. ANDREW SHEARD Patent Attorney Kilhum Strode London WC1

Sir: One bas to question why Sam Clarke (Letters, 10 June) is giving a misleading view on the draft European Union Directive un the legal protection of biotechnological inventions. The Directive is not seeking to patent "the essence of life", nor will it prevent further research being carried out in the fields of any new

patents. The Directive, which has been the subject of much discussion by many of the expert committees of the European parliament over the last seven years or so, seeks only to harmonise across Europe that which is already patent practice. If the Directive is passed, it will not lead to patent rights in biotechnology being any broader than exists at present. The Directive will not affect the scope of patent claims, and established mechanisms will remain in existence allowing parent decisions, which are felt to be too broad, to be challenged.

The research exemption provision in patent legislation will continue to allow research on a patent invention without infringement

A strong intellectual property base in hiotechnology will actually encourage innovation, promote the sharing of knowledge and stimulate further research, not prevent it. Without an effective and

harmonised patent system across Europe for hiotechnology inventions, it is most unlikely that there will continue to be the amount of high-risk investment in biomedical research needed for the new medicines and therapeutics of tomorrow.

Dr JEFF KIPLING Director of Science and Technology The Association of British Pharmaceuncul Industry London SWI

Outcast from the Continent

Sir: On the eve of the Amsterdam summit it may be salutary to reflect on the last occasion when we were in Holland negotiating the terms of a closer relationship with our European neighbours. In February 1651 the English

Parliament dispatched the Chief Justice, Oliver St John, and the veteran Yorkshire MP Walter Strickland to discuss political and economic union with the United Provinces: in June, after four months of strenuously pressing their case, they returned to London

dismayed and empty-handed. The case for both economic and political union with the Netherlands had seemed overwhelming. Both countries were highly developed commercial nations; they were both Protestant; and both were republics: ideological and economic convergence were well-nigh perfect; and integrated they would enjoy superpower security and clout. There were no misgivings in

king on the issue of sovereignty. St John and Strickland were in fact offered commercial union; but it was political union that they sought, and this the Dutch refused. Ideological, institutional and economic convergence were not enough; what we failed to measure up to was the moral test. We were a nation of regicides, the pariahs of

the English Parliament, which had

recently fought and defeated the

Europe. In June 1997 we are, perhaps, in better moral shape. Let us not return from Holland yet again with our tail between our legs, once more the outcasts of the Continent. A strident policy of "British interests first" (short-term and narrowly defined) is not the way ahead

Post leners to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056;

e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk, E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be

edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished levers.

FRANK MUSGROVE Beverley, East Yorkshire

Algerian election is no joke

Sir: Had my piece in The Oldie been the only article I had written on Algeria then Rob Brown's vicious attack on me (Tahloid, 9 June) might have been justified. But it was not.

Had Mr Brown read The
Observer's front page on 25 May
1997 "The blowtorch election that
shames Britain" it might not have squared with his impression of me as a "joker". In this article, I wrote about the widespread use of torture, including blowtorches, in Algeria's police stations; the fears that the horrific massacres are being caused not by the Islamic terrorists but the military junta; and a shipment of defence equipment to Algeria by a British

Not many jokes there. Had Mr Brown opened The Observer that Sunday he would have read a twopage spread inside, detailing how the military is torturing and killing its way to victory over Islamists in the June poll." In this article I quoted a spokesman for Amnesty International: "the spokesman added that 58 journalists had been murdered since 1992. Not a single person has been brought to justice for the killings of these journalists. It does raise very serious questions

about what is really happening." As to Mr Brown's objection to the tone of the Oldie piece, he may have a point. I am afraid I deal with my own terrors through laughter and a sense of the absurd. So does

Phil Davison, of The Independent, whom I look to bospital after he had been shot in Dubrovnik. Inside the Serb hospital, on the examination table, he joked about his suppurating leg wound in a way which would, no doubt, have offended Roh Brown.

Had he been there. OHN SWEENEY The Observer London ECI

The challenge of living with MND

Sir: Jeremy Laurance's report (10 June) is misleading regarding the role of the Motor Neurone Disease Association in the Annie Lindsell case. As the only national organisation providing care and support to people living with Motor Neurone Disease (MND) we have a keen interest in the outcome of the case and the potential implications for our members. However, your readers should be aware that we are not in any way involved in the action being taken by Ms Lindsell and that our support has not been sought.

MND is a rapidly progressive terminal condition affecting approximately 5,000 people in the UR. The cause is unknown and there is no cure. The challenge for people living with MND is how to maximise their quality of life up to the very end. The Annie Lindsell case will open up the debate about quality of life and we welcome the discussion which will follow. GEORGE LEVVY: Chief Executive

Motor Neurone Disease Association

Astronomy moves to Edinburgh

Sir: Although the decision that John Battle, the new minister for science and technology, faces over the future of the Royal Observatories is a difficult one. I'm not sure that he will be much helped by your feature "A Closed Subject!" (Tabloid, 10 June).

I'm surprised that Sir Martin Rees, the Astronomer Royal, is quoted as demanding more consultation on the issue. The subject has been debated ad nauseam in the astronomical community and within the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council (PPARC), Most astronomers are in agreement that a clear decision is needed to focus the UK's technological development of instrumentation for optical and infra-red telescopes in a single Astronomical feehnology Centre. And every time the location for such a centre has been debated by astronomers, the conclusion has been that on balance it should be in Edinburgh. This is simply a reflection that the future lies in infra-red astronomy. which has been Edinhurgh's

The scale of the restructuring required at present is a product of past dithering by PPARC and the judictous Prior Options exercise of the past two years. As chairman of PPARC's main astronomy grants committee I am extremely concerned that whole areas of astronomy will cease to be funded if we do not carry out this restructuring. Bluntly, in a couple of years' time our current groundhased programme will need only about half as many people as are currently employed at the two observatories.

The 320 year old history of the Royal Greenwich Observatory has been mostly associated with Greenwich, and will remain alive there. The seven years of association of RGO with Cambridge are not a strong enough reason to negate the case for an Edinburgh Astronomical Technology Centre.
Professor MICHAEL ROWAN-ROBINSON Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine London SW7

Wanted: a good glass of wine

Sir: Wby can't I buy decent wine in a British puh? In an ordinary bar in mainland Europe I can buy very cheaply a glass of reasonable wine. Why not bere? I know all the usual excuses: wine is cheaper in the country of origin; beer has always been the thing to drink in a pub;

there are many good wine bars.

The situation is still a disgrace. It is up to wine-drinkers to make themselves beard. Instead of avoiding the pub, or drinking something which is not first choice, it would be more effective to order the wine and reject it when it is below standard, as we would if the beer was awful. **GRAHAM BALFRY** Bristol

Conquest of Ceuta

Sir: Can someone please explain how Spain can expect to take back Gibraltar (report, 10 June) before it returns Ceuta to Morocco (or even to Portugal)? Gibraltar was ceded by treaty; Ceuta by conquest. JOHN EVANS Marlow, Buckinghamshire

The political luck of the youthful pretender

Little is known even to his fellow politicians about the convictions of William Hague, the tipsters' favourite to be elected leader of the Tory party but, says Donald Macintyre, that may be no accident

abortive glass of champagne with Michael Howard, William Hague decided to run for the Tory leadership after all, Nick Thomas, an old friend and fellow Conservative from Oxford days, went straight down to the bookmaker's and put a fiver on his old chum becoming the next leader. Thomas made two calculations: "First, I thought. William was never a gambler so he must be pretty sure he can win," be said yesterday. And the other was that the 164-strong Conservative parliamentary party was a good deal smaller as a constituency than the Oxford University Conservative Association which Hague dominated as president in the early Eighties. For, says Thomas, apart from being the "best debater of his generation", already blessed with an extraordinarily sophisticated understanding of what the newish Thatcher government was all about, Hague as a machine politician was simply "the best". If he could dominate the faction-torn OUCA, he could probably get the better of a demoralised bunch of Tory MPs as well.

This little glimpse of Hague as a political organ-iser – he turned the so-called "Magdalen machine" based at his own college from a rather toffs-dominated Tory faction into a formidable counterweight to the leftist Tory Reform Group, adds a little to an otherwise sketchy body of knowledge about the new pretender to the Tory crown. We know that he's balding. That he won a standing ovation with a dauntingly precocious speech to the 1977 Tory party conference. That he's engaged to be married to Ffion Jenkins, the pretty and well-connected civil servant who taught him the Welsh national anthem. That three years at Oxford left his South Yorkshire accent fairly intact. And that he's only 36. And that's about it - not much for a man now enthusiastically touted by his rapidly growing fan club as the man who can save the Conservative Party and storm into Downing Street as an even younger prime minister than Tony Blair in five years' time. It is a CV which leaves open at least two of the biggest questions about him: how did he get so iar, so fast, and what does he believe?

It also leaves out one consistent feature of his rapid rise; enormous, enviable doses of luck. It is often said of politicians - it was frequently said of Margaret Thatcher - that the best make their own luck. And not even those Tories now opposing Hague doubt that he is clever. But he has also been lucky - as, to be fair, has Blair. Hague was noticed by Sir Leon Brittan on a visit to the Oxford

ten, after that famous and Union and plucked out of his post-university abortive glass of champagne with career at McKinsey's, the management consultants, to be a special adviser at the Treasury. For a time at McKinsey's he worked with Archie Norman, later Asda chairman and a likely root-andbranch reorganiser of the party machine if Hague wins. He thus became a natural in a strong field to take the seat in Richmond, Yorkshire when

Brittan went to the European Commission. The Richmond party was so traditionalist that a rival candidate was told he had been put on the shortlist because his wife had the "best less". Answering local party executive questions, the still-single Hague was reported as saying some-thing to the effect: "I've booked the church, I've hired the limos, I've planned the honeymoon. Now all I need is the girl. Lock up your daughters." (According to one account, his friend Alan Duncan made a similar speech several years later when he stood at Rutland, though Duncan is said to have no recollection of this.)

Hague had the extra good fortune at the by-election to have the SDP as his main rival at a time when the alliance was in the throes of its post-general election self-destruction. Hague romped home. He was also lucky that John Redwood resigned in 1995 to take on John Major. Luckier still that Major, remembering his own meteoric rise from a middle-ranking social secu-rity post, replaced Redwood in the Cabinet job of Welsh Secretary with Hague. He could not have foreseen that Michael Portillo would have lost Enfield Southgate and deprive the right wing of its most charismatic contender. Nor, finally, that John Redwood rather than Michael Howard or Peter Lilley came top of the three hard-right contenders, with the result that the right split in his own favour.

But there was skill - and ambition - as well as luck. Hague grew up during the peak of corporate union power in the Seventies in the People's Republic of South Yorkshire. The son of a small soft drinks businessman, it wasn't difficult for him to develop antipathy to the left and, according to one of his oldest friends, he was sporting blue rosettes during local elections at Arthur Scargill's theads. The had no compunction about saying 'I don't know about you guys hut I'm a Conservative'. He was able to have strong and for the area quite unusual convictions - while still staying one of the lads." What's striking, moreover, in the famous 1977 speech, delivered at the age of 16, is precisely the neo-liberal, proto-Thatcherite tone, with its call for people to be "freed" from state interference, and its critique

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of previous Tory governments for not doing more to restore the "liberty of the individual" robbed by Labour. But berein lies one of the enigmas of the Hague career. Was this conviction, as his supporters daim, or an acute sense of the direc-tion of the prevailing political wind? At least one university contem-

porary remembers him being "fashionably" rather than ferociously right wing when he went from the local Wath-on-Dearne comprehensive to Oxford, his party conference fame travelling before him. But another. Andrew Sullivan, now editor of the right-of-centre New Republic political journal, insists that Hague does have deep convictions though be tends to keep them "well concealed". At that time, be says, "there were a lot of us who were very sympathetic to Thatcherism when not everyone in the Tory party was, but who also saw the need to reach out." But Sullivan, like others, attest to a strong streak of social liberalism. Sullivan yesterday recalled him as Union president holding a debate on the age of consent for gays (he would later vote in Parliament for the age to be reduced to 16).

Te was certainly a brilliant debater - with one contemporary remembering a scathing, if unmistakably undergraduate speech in which he excoriated the SDP, which he predicted would "degenerate into the het-erosexual wing of the Liberal Party". He was popular, clever and energetic. According to Sullivan:
"Because he is such a smart politician people overlook that he has a real brain. He got his PPE First nthout any apparent effort.

The Sullivan analysis notwithstanding, opponents in both the Redwood and the Clarke camps will continue to make much of the argument that Hague's beliefs on many topics are if not unformed, at least unknown. In a striking example of the detail in which the leadership war is now being waged, Hague is now under fire from the Redwood camp for allegedly allowing public spending to rise when he was Welsh Secretary. While Redwood, so the claim goes, had reduced grant aid to the Welsh Development Agency from £69.5m to £25m. Hague allowed it to rise to £84.7m in 1997-98, largely by

being more reluctant to sanction land sales. On the Tory left, however, MPs who know Hague claim to be baffled about what his views are on important economic issues. "What are his real views about public spending or injection of private funding into the welfare state, or the NHS or local government?" asks one who has known him for more than a decade. If I look up the record on Ken Clarke or John Redwood I can find the answers but with William I can't."

There have also been claims that Hague has been equivocating about his attitude to Europe and the single currency. It is certainly true that he strengthened his Euro-sceptic credentials as

one of a group - of which Michael Howard was the acknowledged leader - which tried to persuade John Major within the Cabinet to end the "wait and see" policy on EMU. And it's true that he was impressed by a visit to Japan in which he reportedly found that several prominent businessmen were worried about am idea that the UK would leave the EU, while being privately baffled that the British would want to sacrifice their currency.

Both left and right opponents claim to have been becaused by his appearances during the cur-rent campaign at both the right-wing '92 Group and the left-of-centre Positive European Group. At the '92, he is said to have avoided answering a question from the hard-right Julian Lewis about why, a few days before he announced that he was against the single currency in principle. Nigel Evans, a prominent member of his campaign team, had said he didn't know what Hague's views were. And at the pro-European meeting he apparently softened the wording of his opposition to the single currency under questioning from the fiercely pro-European John Gummer.

No doubt this can be put down to the needs of running a successful campaign as the unity can-didate. But because he is up against Redwood and

ing in political bravery, the "where's the beef" charge will continue to run. Particularly since the most prominent original figures in his campaign team are, in the words of one opponent, "senior emulsifiers" of the party rather than leading exponents of economic policy. And for all the campaign team's attempts to explain it away, John Major - and some other grandees - were distinctly unchuffed by Hague's suggestion that the former Prime Minister had presided over an era of fudge. It looked, and still looks, like a naked attempt to fend off accusations that he is "John

Major with a PPE First". The fact is that while Hague may be more right wing than his left-wing backers realise, he remains something of a political tabula rasa. His opponents continue to doubt whether he made the right decision that night when he returned from the Howard pact to a welter of messages on his answering machine urging him to run. "It could just be too early for him," said one fellow-MP. Yes, if he wins he could turn out to be the greatest prime minister since Pitt the Younger. And he could find himself, after the next election, an ex-leader of the Tory party at 41."

about: William Hague is hopeful of becoming the next Tory leader and an even younger. **Tony Blair**

•.•

Photograph: Peter Byrne/



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We talked pigs. They go bang, said Gerry "Dash it Jeeves, must you always talk in parables?" I

way PG Wodehouse writes, it seems, so yesterday I brought you the first half of a new Wodehouse story about Gerry Adams, created by the mighty Independent computer. Today the second half! Story so fur. Bertie Wooster. who would far rather be playing golf at the weekend. has gone to stay with his uncle Lord Wolfram to borrow money from him and to see more of his lovely daughter Kate. Unfortunately, Kate seems more interested in an Irishman called Gerry who has wangled an invitation for

"Dash it all, Kate!" I cried. when at last we found ourselves alone together. What do you see in this Gerry Adler cove?" "His name is Adams,

Bertie, and I won't have you being rude to him." Very well, but first of all tell me what you see in him! Don't tell me you enjoy his conversation. I can hardly make out what he is saying in

that brogue of his!" "That is typical of the unthinking prejudice he has had to put up with all his

life," she flashed back "Gerry has had a very hard life, what with post-colonial angst and the trauma of heing in a permanently

suppressed minority. I didn't know what the girl was talking about. I suspected she didn't either. I suspected she might have picked it up off the Irish chap.

Come off it, Kate," I said. "I have lived all my life as a member of a perpetually downtrodden minority and it has never broken my spirit." What minority might that

"The ranks of poor but honest relatives." I said, rather wittily, I thought. "Do you bappen to know if this would be a good time to touch Uncle Wilbert for a few of the readies?"
"I think all Daddy's spare

cash is going on Sleeping Beauty at the moment." This was the name Lord Wolfram had given to the prize pig with which he hoped to beat the Empress of Blandings, Lord

upside down! "No. sir," he said. "It is just to warn you that if you Emsworth's champion, and I should encounter Mr Adams. thought I might mosey on I would be very careful. He is down to the Wolfram pig not all he seems. Whoever it stable to admire the monster, is hehind the arras, it may on the grounds that if Uncle not be Polonius,"



Miles Kington

Wilbert spotted me doing so it might soften his heart towards me. En route I bumped into Jecves, who materialised out of a bush and took my arm. "Something up, Jeeves?" I said. 'Am I wearing the wrong tie with the wrong shirt. or got my cuff-links

gone. I strolled on for a while through the ample grounds of Wolfram Towers. which are large enough to out many a smaller county to shame, until a certain fragrance told me that I was nearing pig country. I found the pen in which Sleeping Beauty was living up to the first half of ber name at least and was just musing on the extraordinary way in which many noblemen will lose their hearts to a pig or horse or even car, when they seem not to notice their wives any more, when I became aware of a presence beside me. I

said, but he had already

shadow of Mr Gerry Adams. "Ah, the Irish cousin!" I said. before remembering Jeeves's admonition to treat this Irish johnny with caution. So I said nothing тоге.

turned and found the sinister

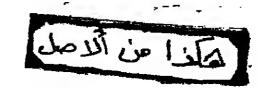
The trouble with pigs," said Gerry, "especially very large pigs, is that they get gas huild-up. Enormous build-up of gas.

He looked at me with innocent spectacles. "Sometimes the gas is so bad that the pig blows up. They can destroy a whole piggery. Bang! Just like

Golly! A piggery blown up? Without warning?" You might get a coded telephone warning first," said Gerry, turning on me the full gaze of his unblinking spectacles. I didn't think I knew what a coded phone call was, so I thought I should change the subject

pronto.

"Any idea who Polonius was?" I said, saying the first thing that come to my mind. "A man who was interfering and had to be got rid of," he said. Life seemed to lose its sparkle when this chap was talking. Of course I didn't know then who he was. Nor did I know that in the next few days the piggery would get blown up, that Jeeves would turn out to be an intelligence johnny, and Kate an undercover agent, that Mr Adams would mysteriously vanish and that Lord Wolfram would be so broken-bearted he would try to borrow money off me. There are times when a chap fervently wishes he had gone to play golf instead.



the commentators

Might it be time to ask the new

Ulster his views

MP for mid-

on the ride-

up-your-leg

qualities of Thai silk?

walsh

Spurred on by David

Blunkett, you worry about

the nutritional value of the things your children are cating. But nothing in your wildest dreams of

monosodium glutamate

seem to put into German

Ritter Sport range, in my

local Tesco the other day.

chocolate. I discovered this

latest abomination, from the

And I include it here (below).

calmly and without comment.

friend of mine decided.

last week, to lobby

members of Parliament

on the subject of adoption.

She wrote a letter to send to

her secretary to address the

envelopes. Later in the day,

her with a heartfelt plea.

Please," she said, "don't

make me write to the Sinn

Fein lot. Me husband would

never forgive me."
Well, of course, my friend

agreed that she could make

an exception when it came to

canvassing the Republican

tendency. It does seem a

little irrelevant, she said,

asking them for their views

about the legal nicedes of

mounting enthusiasm), why not? Wouldn't it be

interesting to see if a party

wholly devoted to sectarian

politics had a policy about more everyday things? How

fascinating il would be to

yell, during a hill in the

Martin McGuinness's 21

(top picture), has been

attend a Sinn Fein rally and

speeches, "Mister Adams -

crèche facilities?" Now that

year-old daughter, Grainne

to ask the MP for mid-Ulster

the ride-up-your-leg qualities of Thai silk and chiffon.

if he holds strong views on

This isn't a plea for

are more multifarious than

irrelevance, more a

said (and I agreed with

her secretary - a devout trish Catholic woman - came to

all 660-odd MPs, and left it to

for your inspection. "Extra"

john

The sneers show Harman has a mighty task

aradox: we will only be able to dispense with a Minister for Women on the day the appointment is not greeted by sour whingeing articles proclaiming that we don't need one. On Harriet Harman's

appointment as Britain's first cabinet Minister for Women, The Daily Telegraph said she represented "an outdated ideology and the fruits will be injustice, social tension and further family break-up". They made rude remarks about her legs, plus this resoundingly idi-otic maxim: "If women can get to the North Pole without any help from the government, they surely don't need any help from Miss Harman to survive in Britain." So that's why we still need a Minister for Women. And the first women's minister not afraid to use the f-word; she calls herself a feminist.

How will she fight her cor-ner? Naturally, she says she won't have to, all heing sweetness and light, for now. But she will "look over the shoulder" of all her cahinet colleagues, monitoring policies for their impact on women - and that will not make her popular. Every policy paper is already crossing her desk. Take last week: someone in the Treasury flew a kite that the Government might re-integrate couples' incomes for tax purposes, as a fall-out from merging the

tax and benefit system. Imagine the headlines: Labour abolishes women's right to independent taxation! "It's just not on the agenda," Harriet Harman says crisply. "And it is not a necessary part of tax-benefit integration."

Indeed she is marching her department in the opposite direction. She has called for research on the distribution of income within families to show why women in couples drawing Income Support or the Job Seeker's Allowance should draw their own and their children's share independently. At present fathers or stepfathers draw the money and may nol hand over enough. That would be a radical shift of most benefits, from wallet to handbag.

The poorest families are often not single mothers, but couples where the father keeps too much of the benefit for himself. Now that is the sort of change no male Secretary of State for Social Security was ever willing to contemplate.

Her hig idea, on which she expects to be

judged, is getting half a million single mothers with school-age children out to work. The light of single mothers is an emblem for feminists, as their poverty reveals how powerless most women still are when not supported by a man. Most women if deserted by their children's father cannot support their families alone, because women's wages are too low for them to earn enough to be breadwinners.

But all will depend on the Treasury, for single mothers on benefit are not registered unemployed and are not in the £3hn welfareto-work initiative. The manifesto promises after-school child-care "in every area", which is what will make her initiative work. Does that mean a guarantee for all children? "No," she says cautiously. "It means in every area." How many, how soon and at what cost will be down to her bargaining power with the Treasury.

Opening another front, she is about to enter a scorching fire-fight with separated fathers. She is determined to force fathers to pay up for their children via the Child Support Agency. The fathers' Network Against the CSA, the most



Polly Toynbee

Her big idea - on which she expects to be judged - is to get half-

subterfuge in fear of being shopped by neighbours. What will she do with the Equal Opportunities Commission? It does not, alas, belong to her but to the Department for Education and Employment, a-million though she says she will be involved. The clamping tight of lips suggests reform is likely, as single the Labour Party has promised in the past. The EOC costs mothers out nearly £6m, has been exiled to Manchester and, under the to work Tories, has been plugued with a deliberately weak leadership to keep it quiet. It beavers away producing reports of minimal

public impact. Expect change here.

effective civil disobedience cam-

paign for years, will be girding

its loins again when it hears this:

if she can't make the present sys-

tem work she will change the law

to make the formula for squeez-

ing money from fathers more

stringent. The Tories softened

the formula in the face of father-

fury hut she is resolute: "It needs a cultural shift."

knowing the way women live in her poverty-stricken con-

stituency, Peekham in south

London. Eyebrows will be raised

when she says she will stop the

hounding nt co-habiting single mothers. "I want to say it doesn't

matter what your relationship is with your boyfriend, what mat-

ters is what you can do. I want

tn take away the incentive to lie."

That would be a revolution for

many single mothers who live by

Her strength comes from

In elbowing her way to get women's issues on the agenda, she has a secret weapon. Anna Coote, the feminist thinker and her new adviser, will be the one to deliver it: her expertise is in citizens' juries and new ways to give democratic legitimacy to decision-making, Harman and Coote plan to enlist a huge bank of women of all kinds right across the country - ordinary women, not just the usual semimoribund women's organisations. "It will be a genuine dialogue with large numbers of women. More women voted Labour than ever before at the election, but women distrust gov-ernment and feel disconnected from it," Harman says. Establishing that contact - a kind of giant interactive focus group - will give her a huge advantage in bargaining for what women want, helping to keep the party in tune with

its new female voters.
It is just as well that Harriet Harman was hard-baked in the political furnace when the row over her son's grammar school place very siderable blow-torching from all sides - as can

Take last week when Anna Coote was appointed, a young reporter called Glcn Owen from The Times had the cheek to call me to ask for the low-down on Coote. I told him to go and tell Peter Stothard, his editor, to get stuffed. But even so, just before I put the phone down, the man begged, "Couldn't you just tell me who Anna Coote lives with?" Now which newly-appointed male political adviser gets

Labour basks in its female-friendly post-electoral glow. All those women MPs - and Cherie Booth, too. But already there are dark mutterings about the maleness inside the lads' bunker. The key No 10 Policy Unit has 10 men and one woman, and Downing Street has its own all-boys' football team. When the froth on the cappuccino has blown away, there will have to be real hard benefits for women in all this.

n her first novel, With One Lousy Free Packet of Seeds, published in 1994, Lynne Truss imagined a down-atheel horricultural magazine called Corne Into the Garden, staffed by green-fingered dreamers, gumbooted losers and sub-editors in diradl skirts. One of the magazine's star features is the weekly "Me and My Shed" slot, in which a famous person is questioned about their relationship with the but-like structure at the end of their garden. ("In certain

professional quarters, people still raved about his 'Me and My Shed: David Essex'; it was said that, for anyone interested in the arr of celebrity outhouse interviewing, it had

represented the absolute 'last word".") Ms Truss's intention is, I fear, satirical; but she has, accidentally, stumbled on a subject of vast importance a snapshot of the Zeitgeist.

Only a week ago, I was reading a story in the tabloids about an English couple whose daughter had died in a riding accident, and who had tried to assuage their grief by designing and building a ranch-style outhouse in her memory, Now we get A Place of My Own: The Education of an Amateur Builder, published next week, in which a journalist and writer called

Michael Pollan describes how

he huilt a timber shack in the woods behind his home in Connecticut. Big deal, I can hear you yawning, Man Writes DIY Book, fascinating... But this is different. At the outset of his labours, Pollan could not tell a Rawlplug from a rattlesnake. His approach is intellectual to a degree: once he's decided to knock up a shed by himself, Pollan starts wondering why and goes into cultural overdrive: he writes about "Thoreauvian fantasies of self-sufficiency", quotes from Gaston Bachelard's The Poetics of Space about the accommodation of daydreams. cites Virginia Woolf and Lewis Mumford, Derrida and



Grainne, model daughter of Sinn Fein MP Martin McGuinness

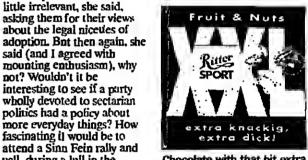
Rousseau, and bangs on about "the full significance of territory and shelter, the metaphysics of inside and - and that's before he has found out the right way to hang in a nail. It's a brilliant performance, doing for the humble outhouse what Richard Klein did for nicotine in Cigarettes are Sublime. And as far as I'm concerned, it's very timely. Because I lately acquired a shed myself, and have been too shy to tell the world of its wondrous qualines until now. Mr Pollan has, in one 300page defence, legitimised shedophilia.

Mine comes from a Worcester-based outfit called Courtyard Designs. The people who run it are rather sweetly determined that the word "shed" is too declasse to be used in its brochures or on its salesmen's lips. Thus you have a choice of "pavilions", "summerhouses", "classic outbuildings" and "garden offices". No buts. No shacks. No lean-tos. No potting sh... But you get the picture. My, ahem, garden office looks like this (see below) only with a spectacular camouflage of lilac, ash and poplar leaves. It's got a little porch, on which you sit reading the papers on sunny mornings. There is, alas, not enough room to erect a swing or

rocking chair for the full Louisiana-geriatric effect, but it's a thought. Inside there are recessed spotlights, three telephone lines, umpteen power points to take the computer, the fax, the ghettoblaster, the mini-bar (four bottles of Chardonnay) and the Vax machine. Along the 15-foot back wall there are eight shelves of paperbacks (not included in the price). The heater turns the air into Tropical Swamp in minutes. The carpet is mid-Aegean blue with occasional. characterful striations of mud. The ficus plant in the

comer... When the thing is first huilt, you experience a worry that you're, in effect, packing yourself off, every evening, to a well-upholstered dng kennel. But as you sit reflectively at midnight, reading in a dreamy spiral of Marlboro Lights and middleperiod Van Morrison, you look through the dark at the lit windows of home and experience for a second what I expect Neil Armstrong felt on looking back at Planet Earth, and you think no more about incarceration. On sunny afternoons, with the thrush whistling what sounds like Sibelius in the laburnum. the husbes rustling like cowpokes, the children sitting on the desk talking about mutter of Irish builders drifting in through your Open windows, it all gets very Keatsian. God knows what Mr Pollan (or Thoreau) would make of the bosky dell that is now my soul's retreat: hut you don't need metaphors in Paradise. You just need a device for getting wasps out of the inkjet printer.

their public image makes them seem. Every interviewer knows that the best way to pull up a subject who has settled too determinedly into a tamiliar monologue is to ask where they got the hat the watch/the tan the sear. The music magazine () used regularly to invite demented. lino-chewing rock stars to



Chocolate with that bit extra

nominate "the prince of where exactly do you stand on cheeses". And it was Tony me years ago that when meeting people from an are na of success, you should considering a career in fashion always talk to them about modelling, it might be the time something quite unconnected with it. He always did, apparently, Okay, I said, say you've just met, ooh, General Schwarzkopf, What do you say to him? "I should ask him," said Benn, "where he recognition that people's lives ge is his collars made."



The bosky dell that is my soul's retreat' - aka a garden shed

ou hear a lot about the duhious additives in food these days. You hear awful warnings about the sudden rise in cannibalism across the rougher hits of Africa.

It's OK to be glamorous, Mr Brown

Dressing to be dull does not help any sort of creed, says Richard D North

onight, Gordon Brown, the iron Chancellor, will don what he supposes to be the uniform of a man of his station in life to address the Lord Mayor's annual Mansion House dinner. His insistence on wearing a lnunge suit is of course an act of spectacular rudeness. Like every-one else at the dinner, Mr Brown is the Lord Mayor's guest and if he were yours or mine, and coming to a fancy dress party, we would expect him to ahide by the rules. These were in any case relaxed last year in "the people's" direction from requiring proper evening wear (white tie and tails) to

the more modern dinner jacket.

Mr Brown's act of perulance is of a piece with New Labour's puritanism, the party's main distinguishing feature. Smoking, hunting, betting and junk food have all been frowned on. Now, dressing up is to be despised, as the party's historic agenda of theorising moral socialism completes its transformation into one of sermonising social moralism.

They'll be banning plays next. Mr Brown's gesture is doubly odd considering the real value of dressing for dinner. A caption for the V&A's Cutting Edge show about post-war British fashion remarks that evening wear has the merit of being durable. It is also cheap. In university halls up and down the country, young men whose families used to he working class are sitting down to rather dreadful evening meals in dinner jackets bought from Oxfam for less than 20 quid. They are learning frugality twice over they will not need to buy another such suit pro-

wearing it.

The older these clothes are, the more likely they are to he exquisitely cut, but that will seldom be noted or matter. Average cut will do very well: this is clothing which strikes a hlow for socialism because it is hard to spot the difference between Burton's and

Savile Row. Men in dinner jackets look glamorous and arc learning the peculiar alchemy by which a uniformity of dress - especially cunningly designed uniform - accentuates the wearer's individuality by drawing attention to the uniqueness of the face and any small affectation of decoration.

Doubtless Mr Brown thinks he is

asserting something productive, serious, iconoclastic, and workmanlike in wearing his day clothes at the dinner. He would wear dungarees if he could, to show allegiance with the non-conformist producing and manufacturing classes as against those Popish effetes who merely trade in money and who will provide his audience. But the National Portrait Gallery's Pursuit of Beauty exhibition, on the changing fashion in bodies and dress, points out that the Roundhead army of lronsides contained hardly less foppish men than its Royalist opponents. To dress in a dull way is not

However, it is true that the killjoy is never far from the centre of affairs in British society. Northern Euro-peans always have to fight hard for moderation and freedom and pleasure against the dreariness and sever-



Dull in the middle: Mick Jagger, Gordon Brown and Ken Clarke

sion of this real struggle. A hundred years ago last month,

of the Arctic, via the Scotland of and we see the widespread affectation Messrs Brown, Blair and Cook (who of wearing football "strip" by perendears at least by being a tipster). Unfortunately this century has had to fight harder than any other for the right of men to be good, serious and lively. The Roundhead and the Cavalier may each be caricatures, but they are fair enough symbols of a real contemporary hattle between opposed moral and political forces. Tyranny by lounge suit is only the farcical expres-

Oscar Wilde was released from Reading jail. The shock waves of his dis-

vided they don't eat too much while necessarily to be serious, nor is the grace are still with us, as generation for always an idiot. that glamour is the same as homosexuality. Actuatly, Jonathan Fryer, the author of a new study of Wilde, notes that for years no one equated Oscar's flamhoyance with sexual deviance. Indeed, for most of history, ity which blows southwards at us nut men have cheerfully, glecfully even, dressed in kill. Roy

Strong, whose diaries are a chronicle in part of the only recent period when giamorousness for men was normal, says: "In the 1960s it was an expression of a kind of rebellion, but there was no connotation of homosexuality. Nn one thought Mick Jagger was

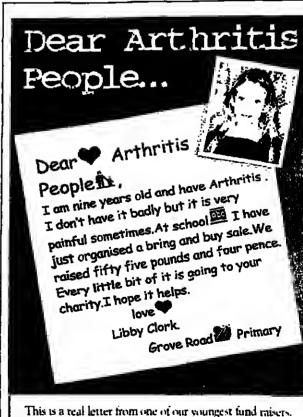
All that is over, feetly nice men who like poetry and opera but are anxious to show they are not aesthetes really. It comes to something when intelligent people are Fever Pitch-forked into mimicking yobs because they themselves happen to have escaped from lives on perioheral estates, or were lucky enough never to have known them. The affectation of sporting and motoring yobbery is of course an attempt to find a masculine imagery, made by modern men who sense themselves robbed of

the right to appear sensitive.

Poor Mr Brown's jnb is 10 make people rich, though he'd probably rather lecture them. He probably mourns the way affluent young men, and nider ones who should know better, are stuffing themselves with a diet of Loaded, gleaning ever more extrav-agant ideas about getting and spending. Their riches are poured into an orgy of commercialised had behaviour and the anticipation of exploitmg birds, and drowning any rebellious sweetness in booze.

Most of the displays made by modern men - whether in neon sportswear or dull business suits - succeed only in revealing how neurotic they have become. This is because they are crushing the gorgeons in their natures. Of course, this is not to say that Gordon Brown with his own bit of defiant self-expression is neurotic or in denial. Certainly, it is not obligatory to want to be anything like Eddie Izzard, whose masculinity and forcefulness are powerful and obvious, even nnder his make-up. Nor do we need him to ape the self-conscious splendour of a Roy Strong.
But we are entitled to invite Mr

Brown to consider how it is that being rude to his hosts and looking dull helps any sort of creed, let alone that creed of realism and kindliness which people thought they were voting for the other day. Perhaps he hopes to remind us of distant days and exigencies, when rationing and utility clothing last saw a Labour landslide. If he does, he might remember the resentment which built up alongside them, and that Clem Attlee wore his tails with-



Libby is one of over 11 million people in Britain today who know just how painful arthritis and rheomatism can be.

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YOUNG OR OLD - THE PAIN'S THE SAME

business & city

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Government seeks union advice on windfall tax pitfalls

Barrie Clement Labour Editor

The Government has sought advice to offset the hurden of the levy. from the country's largest union on bow to stop privatised utilities cut-ting costs in order to pay the windfall tax. The proposals from the 1.3 million strong public service union Unison ranged from exaltation through tax breaks to outright com-

make employees redundant in order

As fresh evidence of the Government's readiness to take on board the views of unions in framing policies towards business, Whitehall officials asked Unison for suggestions on how cost-cutting could be avoided.

In a letter to the Treasury, Mike Jeram, head of energy at the union,

of the utilities are prepared to lower ployees would require special pro-the standards of customer service and vision in the legislation. The law gestion which the Government might would need to give ministers or a regulator the power to make "enforceable directions" where the tax is thought to have resulted directly or indirectly in redundancies.

Mr Jeram bowever accepts that such a provision might prove difficult for the Government. An alternative might be an attempt to exercise influence over the companies by "making the appropriate feel is the least expensive and con-

Annther method would be to offer companies rebates on the tax if they protected existing employment levels and recruited new staff, possibly trainees. This approach would give the companies incentive not to reduce their current staffing levels and to develop security packages for for their employees "Mr Jeram said.

the rebate policy would allow the Government to pitch the levy at a higher level on the grounds that com-panies had been offered the means to reduce their share.

The Unison official said the union could develop the idea, in conjunction with the Trade Union Research Unit at Ruskin College, Oxford, if the Treasury thought it had merit. Speaking at Unison's annual con-

of the union, warned the government that it would be a "nonsense" to impose the levy to create 250,000 jobs for the memployed, if it led to redundancies in companies on which it was imposed. He urged ministers to ensure that some of the tax was diverted to protect jobs in the pub-

Under the Government's strategy of European-style "social partner-

There was a sting in the tail for companies however. Mr Jerem said ney Bickerstaffe, general secretary have also canvassed opinions from the related related to the related related to the related related to the related related to the related related related to the related relate to fight tooth and nail against any extension of the regulatory regime or any interventionism through tax in centives, bearing in mind that the levy could be at a higher level in order to accommodate rebates.

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Details of the tax - expected to raise at least £3 billion - are to be revealed in Gordon Brown's first Budget on 2 July.

The union is concerned that some says that full protection for em-ITV should be one company, says Robinson

Cathy Newman

The nine ITV companies will need to merge into a single op-erating group within a decade. according to Gerry Robinson, chairman of Granada Group, the leisure and media compa-

ny which is seeking to dominate Channel 3 broadcasting. After a week of talks and mergers in the television industry, Mr Robinson said yes-terday he believed one company would, within 10 years, control ITV in order to compete with the increasingly cut-throat television market.

He added: "If ITV were started now it would look a ludicrous and costly structure to compete with Sky, Channel 4 and Chan-

He added that the Government had so far taken a "freer, more logical stance on media ownership". Mr Robinson, who is a firm Labour supporter, said the new Government had taken a very sensible attitude towards relaxing current legislation, which prevents companies owning more than 15 per cent of the UK's total television audience.

However, a spokesman for the Department of National Heritage, poured cold water on Mr Robinson's comments, and said: "There is no immediate imperative to change the current media ownership regulations. It's hard to see how a single licence holder could deliver diversity."

Charles Allen, Granada's chief executive, hacked Mr Robinson's claims that the UK needed to foster a "strong, vibrant" television industry controlled by sizeable players. He said ITV should mirror the

structure of Channel 5, with ma-jor operators taking stakes in a single holding company. City analysts had mixed views

about Granada's views. Anthony de Larrinaga, media analyst at Panmure Gordon, said: "I'm sure Michael Green [chairman of Carlton Communications] thinks the same thing and wants to be boss as well. If the Independent Television Commission wanted one commercial mainstream licence it would have created it. But the ITC

∠ If ITV were started now it would look a ludicrous and costly structure to compete with the others

hasn't decided to abandon the regional structure of Channel 3." However, Mathew Horsman,

media analyst at Henderson Crosthwaite, said at some point down the road" there would be an "ITV plc". He added: "The inability of the franchises to work together has held ITV back. At some point there will be a single proposition to compete against the national Channel 4 and Channel 5 franchises." Mr Horsman added that the restructuring and appointment of a chief executive at ITV Network Centre signailed the first steps towards a single Channel 3 company.

Granada's comments come a few days after it announced it was in talks with its neighbouring franchise, Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television. Sources said yesterday that Granada would want to save around £20m over two years if the deal with Yorkshire went abead. The majority of Yorkshire's production facilities

would remain at Leeds, ac-

cording to Mr Robinson.
His enthusiasm for further integration followed swiftly on the heels of Tuesday's £105m merger of Scottish Television and Grampian Television. One analyst suggested that Mr Robinson and Gus Macdonald, chairman of Scottish Media Group and also a Labour supporter, had proceeded with merger talks only after "sound-ing out" the Government's views on further consolidation.

Unveiling a 33 per cent rise in profits before tax and exceptional items to £243m for the 26 weeks to the end of March, Mr Robinson said the company would invest £200m in TV channels and programming in the next five years. Analysts said Granada was attempting to signal to the stock market that it was not achieving the rating it deserved considering the size of its media holdings.

Mr Robinson kept his options open on a demerger of the group's media operations. He said that while Granada would not be spinning off its media division in the short term, the company would always keep it in mind as a possibility.

Granada saw operating profits on last year's Forte acquisition soar 351 per cent, from £25.8m to £116.4m.

Nationwide chief slams conversions

Tom Stevenson Financial Editor

The bead of Britain's largest re-maining mutually owned build-ing society launched a scathing attack yesterday on the "illusion of wealth" that conversion windfalls bad created. Brian Davis, chief executive of Nationwide, confirmed the society's com-mitment to mutuality and said be was confident of lighting off a challenge from rebel members who were trying to push through a flotation of the society. He said: "Conversion does

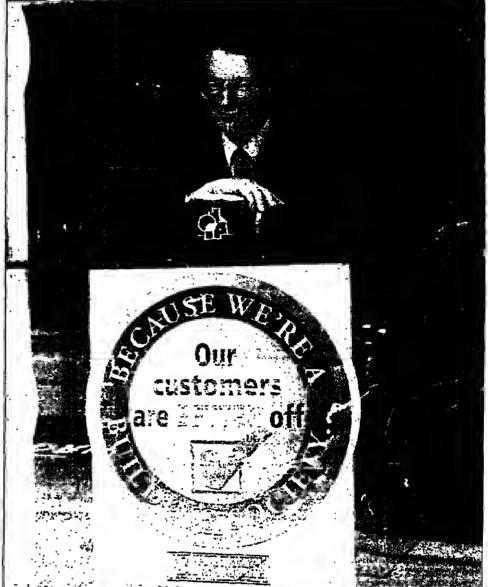
not create wealth. It is like a conjuror pulling rabbits out of a hat. We are all amused by the trick but no one believes he has created anything. The societies that have become banks bave spent £500m of their customers' money on the conversions."

Profits at Nationwide slumped last year as it carried out its promise of returning £200m to its members through keener savings and mortgage rates than its demunialising peers. Mr Davis said: "Our competitors would love us to convert but we intend to stay on as a huilding society and hring them increasing competition.

The society said it had re-turned the funds while improving its balance sheet strength, improving its efficiency and increasing its share of the mortgage lending market. It was confident that record would allow it to see off a challenge at its annual meeting from a group of carpet-bagging dissidents. The rebels are attempting to have five of their number appointed to Nationwide's board and to push through a flotation or takeover of the society. They are promising members handouts of at least £1,000.

Nationwide announced 18 months ago it was committed to remaining a mutual society and yesterday restated its intention to put the interests of customers first. With more than 7 million customers and 685 hranches, Nationwide is the country's leading building society following the flotation of Halifax.

E116.4m. Announcing pre-tax profits of £264.8m for the year to April,



a 33 per cent reduction on the previous year's £395.6m, Mr Davis spoke out strongly for the mutual movement: "We can occasionally look beyond personal greed and are committed to rewarding our customers with tangible long-term benefits. Over a period which has seen

many institutions abandoning their mutual status, I am delighted with the role Nationwide has played in preserving real choice and competition.

Reflective mood: Brian Davis said conversion windfalls created an 'illusion of wealth'

Mr Davis said the attractions of the Nationwide offer had been made clear since the release of funds that had been

review of the group. The payment followed an unreserved

apology from group chairman

Lord Hambro for the bank's

support of the discredited

£1.2bn bid and the part it played

in distributing stolen docu-

Sir Chips said Hambros

would "take as soon as possible

any action that needs to be tak-

en to ensure we preserve and

then enhance the good name

which is so important to us. We

believe that this will enable us

to put the matter behind us."

Peter Large, the corporate fi-nancier who headed the Ham-

bros team advising Mr Regan,

has temporarily stepped down

from his position and is helping

ments around the City.

run-up to their flotations. Around £700m of savings had flowed into Nationwide accounts in May. The average deposit of £11,000 suggested savers were not carpet-baggers seeking the next windfall, Mr

locked into rival societies in the

sharply higher than the previ-ous year's £500,000 but they rep-

resented an underlying fall

before lower bad debt provi-

sions from £36.7m to £20.4m.

The return on capital in the

business was at least three times

too low, Sir Chips said. Hambro Countrywide re-

turned a profit of £31m com-pared to the previous year's £4m

loss as the number of transac-

tions handled by the group rose

by 28 per cent, much better than

the 9 per cent volume increase

from the previous year's record

profit of £28.8m to £25.2m

while Insurance Services re-

treated marginally from £11.1m

to £10.9m.

Investment profits slipped

in the market as a wbole.

News Corp signs satellite TV deal

David Usborne New York

After months of frustration, and one deal that imploded Ru-pert Murdoch has secured a means of floating his satellite television service above the market that has hitherto chuded him: the United States.

An agreement was announced yesterday between Mr Murdoch's News Corporation and the owners of the PrimeStar satellite broadcaster to re-

satellite broadcaster to re-structure the company with News Corp emerging with a 30 per cent non-voing stake. In return, News Corp and its partner, MCI Communications, public company, to be named PrimeStar Inc., satellite assets valued at \$1.1bn (£672m) as well as valuable transmission sites and federal licences.

Left with 70 per cent of the company would be original PrimeStar partners Time Warner, with about 22 per cent, and Comcast, Cox Communications and MediaOne, with about 6 per cent each. PrimeStar is the second-largest satellite broadasting service in the US after-DirecTV. owned by General Motors.

The deal essentially rescues Mr Murdoch's satellite plans for the US which were left in tatters after the collapse six weeks ago of an early joint venture agreement with EchoStar of Denver, Colorado. The death of that deal has left Mr Murdoch in a morass of litigation.

"I couldn't quite say this is a replacement, but because that deal [with EchoStar] didn't work out, this is the next one we're doing," a News Corp spokesman said yesterday. In the meantime there were

reports yesterday that Mr Murdocb was on the cusp of finalising a \$1.7bn deal to acquire one of the largest cable operators in the United States, International Family Entertainment. IFE is owned by Pat Robert-

son, the Christian fundamentalist leader who once ran an independent candidacy for the US presidency. Its principal asis the ninth-largest cable chanset is the Family Channel, which nel in the US. The PrimeStar manoeuvre

also re-establishes peace between Mr Murdoch and the US cable industry that had furiously opposed his EchoStar agreement. The other main partners in the new PrimeStar all have substantial cable interests, with Time Warner being the lead

With EchoStar, Mr Murdoch had hoped to launch a type of satellite service that would have directly challenged the grip of the cable industry on most US Comment, page 25 television viewers.

Unemployment down to 1.6 million | Hambros report into Co-op bid may not be made public

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

Headline unemployment fell to a seven-year low of just over 1.6 million in May. But the decline was the smallest for nine months as the distortion caused by the introduction of the Jobseekers' Allowance (JSA) dropped out of the figures. The smallerthan-expected fall, along with figures showing unchanged growth in earnings in the year to April, eased analysts' fears that the tighter job market would lead to higher inflation.

The reassurance came on the eve of the Chancellor's Mansion House speech, in which he is expected to flesh out earlier indications that the inflation target will be at least as tough as the present 2.5 per cent ceiling. The message to the Bank of England is keep your finger on the interest-rate trig-ger but don't squeeze yet," said Adam Cole, UK economist at James Capel.

Andrew Smith, Employment Minister, yesterday welcomed the

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latest decline in the number of unemployment benefit claimants but said there was still "much to do" on the joblessness front.

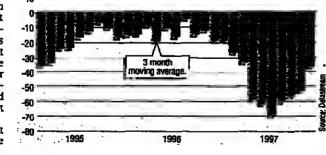
The Treasury is considering how to implement the Government's manifesto pledge to create a fully independent statistical office, as part of the comprehensive spending review an-nounced by the chief secretary, Alistair Darling, yesterday. Such a body would be free to replace the discredited claimant count measure of unemployment.

the trend decline in the number of claimants is about 30,000-35,000 a month, rather than the 62,000 average during the six months in which the JSA was in-troduced. This is still higher than the 15,000-20,000 a month trend seen in mid-1996.

hased measure of unemployment has also shown a faster rate of improvement, falling by 111,000 in November-February, compared to a 184,000

The more reliable, survey-

Change in unemployment



The Government believes drop in the claimant measure in the same months.

Other statistics in yesterday's batch confirmed the pick-up during the past year. Employment showed a robust increase of 86,000 in the first quarter, and all were full-time jobs. The number of people in Government training schemes fell by 10,000 to 180,000, the lowest for 12 years.

The jobs figures fit into the broad picture of strong growth in the economy, but reassured the financial markets that the overbeating would not get out of hand.

The labour market data look far less threatening to the inflanon target than they did two months ago." said John O'Sullivan of NatWest Markets.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit fell by 18,400 in May, compared to drop of 56,400 in April. Equally important to the City was the unchanged rate of

growth in underlying average

earnings. This stayed at 4.5 per cent in April for the third

the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS) may never emerge after Sir Chips Keswick, chief executive, said yesterday an independent investigation by solicitors Norton Rose might not he made public. He said the report was ex-

The truth about Hambros' role

in Andrew Regan's failed bid for

Tom Stevenson

pected by the end of the month but might only be seen by the bank and its regulators.

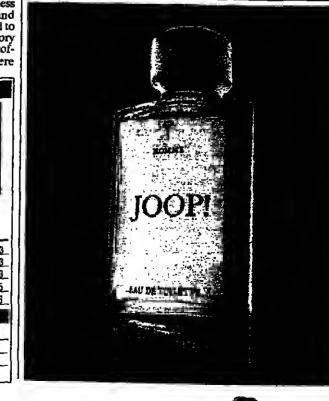
He was speaking as Hambros. one of the City's last remaining independent investment banks, reported more than tripled pretax profits of £64.7m (£20.6m) for the year to March, mainly

thanks to a £35m turnaround at

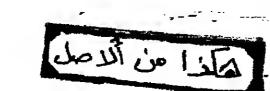
the group's 52 per cent-owned Hambro Countrywide chain of estate agents. An undisclosed payment to the CWS, thought to be around £1m. was included in a £9.2m exceptional charge that also cov-

the Norton Rose inquiry.

Turning to the results, Sir Chips admitted that profits from the core banking business remained "inadequate" and said he remained committed to seeing a return to "satisfactory and sustainable" returns. Profits of £10m from banking were



mouth running. ered the costs of a strategic STOCK MARKETS INTEREST RATES CURRENCIES ioney Market Bates **Board Yields** Bay's change Change(CG) 1596/97 ligh 1996/97 Law 1 Mesta Leng Book (Xi) her Ago l first Helica Leed (%) Test Ago 4724.80 4739.60 4056.60 3.48 1,6393 +0.51c 1.5355 \$ (London) +9.60 £ (London) 0.6100 -0.19 0.8513 4729.40 4462.00 3.63 6.12 6.97 \$ (N York) 1.6375 +0.05c 1.5355 E (N York) ± 0.6107 -0.02 0.6513 2017.90 3.51 2178.29 3.09 0.56 0.87 DM (London) 2.8141 +2.21pt 2.3589 DM (London) 1.7167 +0.82pi 1.5363 3.00 ¥ (London) 184.716 +Y0.46 167.084 4.31 FTSE All-Share 2237.85 # (London) 112.680 -Y0.07 109.485 2242.16 1989.78 3.48 7555,13 +15.86 E Index +0.2 7539.27 5032.94 1.70 102.1 +0.2 97.5 99.7 ±0.7 86.0 S index 20289.93 -242.62 -1.2 20611.56 17303.85 0.801 14990.90 12055.17 2.981 3695.29 2848.77 1.48† -18,19 Price (s) Charge (s) Charge's Falls +12.42 +0.3 Yesterday Day's che Year Age hales Latest Yr Agu Bust Figs Energy Group 641.5 61.5 10.6 Albert Fisher Gp 34 1.5 17.73 +0.05 18.03 Source: FT Information 156.3+2.4pc 150.9 19 Jun Salvesen Christian 256 Travis Perkins 471.5 Chiroschence Gp 269 11.5 344.05 +0.00 384.20 GDP 109,7+2,6pc 107.0 25 Jul 25 5.8 4.0 210.16 +0.28 250.21 Base Rates - 6.25pc 6.75



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'No other Government

had achieved a

comprehensive

inventory before, Mr

Darling said. This is

technically true, but

behind his back'

the minister must have

had his fingers crossed

David Usborne

Labour's sacred cows unlikely to face the axe

Trumpels were winded in the House of Commons vesterday as Alistur Darling. chief secretary to the Treasury, announced a comprehensive review of public spending. Well, not quite, but his rhutorical flourishes demanded the accompaniment. Mr Darling promised that every department would start from a zero base in building up new spending plans. Every item of expenditure would have to be justified in terms of the Government's objectives. Whew! These

guys really mean business, don't they? But hold on a moment. How new is all this, and will it actually make any difference? The Government is right to carry out this review. It is right to scrutinise spending in the light of its priorities. But the triumphalism of the announcement underplays the Conservative government's own efforts to carry out a genuine review uf public expenditure and overplays the scope for and prospect of radical switches in spending.

One of the innovations claimed by Mr Dar-

ling was an inventory of departmental assets. with a view to selling off any the Government does not need. No other Government had achieved a comprehensive inventory before, he said. This is technically true, but the minister must have had his fingers crossed behind his back. The work is already under way as part of the shift towards more commercially orientated accounts for the public sector initiated by Kenneth Clarke. The former Chancellor's decision to move to "resource accounting", as it is known, will have radical consequences for judging public expenditure.

senior civil servant who now directs the Policy Studies Institute, has pointed out that when her department, Employment, underwent its last fundamental expenditure review, the idea of axeing government training schemes for the jobless was never considered. Yet all studies have shown that these schemes do nobody any good. Her point is that it is almost impossible to be radical about areas where ministers have invested political capital.

The chances are obviously better for a new Government. But even New Labour has its sacred cows. Will it axe all Governmentfunded training schemes." Absolutely not: it is offering training as one of four options for the young unemployed. Will it make pensioners pay for prescriptions? Not without a serious tussic between Gordon Brown and Frank Dobson at the Department of Health. The Chancellor and his team need to combine some sensible expectations about what the new comprehensive review can achieve with the stirring rhetoric of matching spending to the people's priorities.

ITV's consolidation has gone far enough

Every businessman aspires to monopoly, the late Roy Watts, former chairman of Thames Water, used to say. Those who tell you otherwise, he would insist, are just be- a handsome return, even after payments to ing disingenuous. He is as right now as he is the Exchequer, and it still takes the vast hulk grace of Hambros' chief executive, but dig-

pursuit of monopoly in rather more seductive language. There's scarcely an industry worth the name that doesn't talk constantly these days about the need for "consolidation". If you want us to provide a decent service capable of competing internationally, then we must be allowed to consolidate in the home market, is the general thrust of the argument. Usually it is expressed in rather more subtle and beguiling terms than this.

but that's roughly how it goes.

So it was yesterday as Gerry Rohinson, chairman of Granada, became the latest businessman to beat the consolidation drum. ITV has already been allowed a high degree of it, with an original 15 franchises in 1993 now owned by just nine holding companies. But Mr Robinson wants to go further, much further. He wants ITV to be allowed to consolidate into just one consortium company, with ownership shared by ITV's present media barons. The present structure, he says, is ludicrous, costly and incapable of competing long term against Sky, the BBC, cable, and Channels Four and Five. Let us consolidate, he argues, and we would then have a superior service and superior programming which Britain ple could sett to the world.

Familiar stuff, but actually even more tenuous a justification for more consolidation when applied to TV than most other industries. ITV already provides its owners with

Actually altering public expenditure is another matter. Pamela Meadows, a former dustrialists have since learnt to dress up the more, it already produces good, high-quality programming capable of competing with the best that others can offer. There is no evidence this programming would get any better, or that any more money would be devoted to it, if the industry were allowed further to consolidate. Nor, except perhaps in the case of high-cost period drama, would demand overseas be improved for what would almost certainly continue to be largely parochial British-based product.

Mr Robinson is talking baloney, though nobody can blame him for at least trying it on. He's not the first, nor will he be the last. Sky, cable and others may eventually cat sufficiently into ITV's traditional market to justify a rethink, but that time has not yet come. For the moment, consolidation in ITV has gone as far as it ought to.

Hambros must come clean about the Co-op

Sir Chips Keswick played a predictably straight hat vesterday over what Hambros has coyly taken to calling the 'CWS matter'. A distraction, dear boy, that we'll be able to put behind us just as soon as that wretched independent report is out of the way. Can't say if we'll publish the damn thing, of course, and, so sorry, can't say how much that

regrettable little episode cost us. It is easy to be seduced by the patrician

ging the bank out of this particular pickle is going to demand a little less charm and a great deal more clarity. Hambros jumped into bed with Andrew Regan because it was desperate for business in its struggling corporate finance arm. If it is to gain better quality work than that, the least it must do

is come completely clean about its mistakes. One thing is for certain, the Regan camp will be pressing for publication of the Norton Rose report. Rightly or wrongly, it feels it has been made the scapegoat for this shabby affair and it won't rest until Hambros' role is out in the open. If it is all going to come out in the wash anyway, it is surely bener to bite the hullet and issue a voluntary mea culpu.

Even then, Hambrox remains in a bind. The sharp rise in its profits last year owed more to the booming housing market than any improvement in its core banking business. Strip out a fall in had dehts and hank-ing profits were well down. Both insurance and investments were also lower. The circling vulture of Jim Mellon's Regent Pacific is unlikely to be impressed by what even Sir Chips describes as wholly inadequate returns.

It is frankly hard to see how Hambros can develop a meaningful role in the modern City. One of the reasons the hid for the CWS failed was the bank's inability to secure finance for the takeover quickly enough to pre-empt the society's highly effective defence. If it cannot secure funds then all it can offer is the quality of its advice. Backing Lanica Trust was hardly a ringing

A radio-based telecoms contender set up five years ago is signing up customers fast. Michael Harrison reports WAVES NOT WIRES

Ionica set for £625m float to do battle with BT

phone network to British Telecom based on innovative radio technology, is to go pub-lic next month through a stock market flotation that will value the business at £625m.

The company, formed five years ago by a science graduate from Imperial College, intends to raise £125m through a listing in London and New York. About 20 per cent of the company will be time Ionica plans to raise a further £200m in deht to help build out its network, taking the total amount raised so far to £760m.

The company's 350 shareholders, who include Yorkshire Electricity, Northern Electric, 3i and a number of other venture capitalists, investment trusts and banks, have agreed not to sell any of their shares. In addition, Ionica's eight largest shareholders have signed a lock-in agreement which prevents them selling any shares for a year after the flotation.

The flotation will make Nigel Playford, Ionica's chief executive, worth £31.5m on paper. He will hold a stake of 5 per cent after the offer. Mr Playford and Iouica's four other executive directors who together started the business in 1992, own 7.3 per cent of the company. The 800

staff own a further 3 per cent. The Cambridge-based com-pany began offering a service to residential and small business customers in the Anglia region a year ago and extended its service to the Midlands in February. So far it has 24,000 customers out of the 1.2 million homes passed and has achieved a connection rate of nearly 3 per

Ionica, the company that is set-ting up a rival domestic tele-to achieve a market share of 5 to achieve a market share of 5 per cent by 2001, by which time its network of base stations and exchanges should cover 80 per

cent of the country.
But a study published yester-day by its financial advisers, SBC Warburg, estimates that it offered to investors. At the same £1.3bn and forecasts a pre-ta-

> tion is connected to an lonica telephone exchange

which is in turn connected to the national phone network. SBC Warburg's research puts the cost of connecting each

pared with £800 for BT and £500 for cable subscribers. Mr Playford says: "The reason shares in the cable operators have done so badly is that they made promises they have not been able to keep. We can break even with 2-3 per cent of the market and make our indeed with 5 per cent.

Ionica's selling point to in-

Ionica customer at just £16 comshareholders very happy people

could have captured 10 per cent of the market by 2004. On that basis SBC Warburg puts Ionica's enterprise value - equity plus debt - at between £860m and profit of £82m by 2001-2002. In the 12 months to the end of March this year it made a loss of £44m on income of £15m.

vestors is that its up-front capi-tal expenditure is a fraction of that incurred by cable companies because it incurs costs only when it signs up a customer. Its biggest capital cost is the radio aerial fitted to the outside wall of each subscriber's home. From there calls connect to a remote base station in the local area - usually on

lonica's strategy, however, is to

top of a high building. The sta-

Waving to the crowd: The flotation will make Nigel Playford, Ionica's chief executive, worth £31.5m on paper compete not with the cable companies but with BT his charges are fixed at 10 per cent below those of BL Each time BT cuts its charges, Ionica follows suit.
"Although price is part of the

message, there is no point just marketing yourself as a cheap telephone company. We sell

Ionica as a high quality telecoms provider. Because it is delivered

by digital radio we don't have the

costs of digging up the streets to get to people so we can pass on

those cost savings to customers.

Copper local loop is a physical

asset which deteriorates with

time and is also labour-intensive.

Ours is a low maintenance

Despite Mr Playford's scien-

network."

high-technology image, the com-pany's main focus of attention is on a high-profile saturation marketing campaign. Its advertising budget, at £20m this year compares with the £150m BT spends but BT has 27 million customers. Two-thirds of its customers

come from advertising but it has also begun to send teams out sell-

ing door to door. Mr Playford

says that when they go down a street of 100 houses, they come

back with 10 houses signed up

Energis, the telecoms network owned by the National Grid,

have built national trunk net-

Whereas Mercury and

tific background and Ionica's customers, Ionica has approached the market the other way around. It operates a local loop and plugs its calls into whichever trunk operator is offering the best and most compentive service.

Mr Playford is not worried by about BT's campaign to win back

customers or the fact that the ca-

hie operators are getting their act

together and consolidating

through the Cable and Wireless

total illusion designed to moti-

vate a demoralised workforce. It

should really be called a stop loss.

The market is vast - £7bn a year

"BT's win-back campaign is a

Communications alliance.

nies, meanwhile, don't have a sensible billing system and no proper IT systems. They started offering their services four years ago and yet we beat them to number portability. What on earth are they playing at?" So far Mr Playford has led

from the front. He prides himself on the fact that of the 50 most senior managers in the company no could hurt us on price but it would have to chop off its own foot one has left loni-

he describes those who were not equal to the task. Staff turnover among middle management is running at only 1-2 per cent and even among the most junior staff,

such as relephone sales assistants, its is only 5 per cent. As Ionica prepares for the scrutiny that goes with a public listing and adjusts to the de-mands imposed by actually run-ning a business as opposed why would it want to do that when we are only aiming for 5 per cent of the market?"

merely to planning one, Mr Playford is aware of the pitfalls that may lie ahead. But as he surveys the land-

scape, he cannot spot any obvious disaster waining to happen."When we started in 1992 we had no technology, no money, no staff, no customers, no interconnection and no number portability. Now we can tick every one of those boxes. If we do no more than we are doing now we will do fantastically well.

"We have access to all the important capital markets, I can't see any new technology coming along that will zap us and the market is unlikely to be flooded with new entrants because there isn't the space available on the radio spectrum. BT could hurt us on price but to do that it would have to chop off its own feet and take the pain as well, but

the Government there has been total silence from Whitehall on the issue." The existing policy is that BT cannot offer broadcast televi-

US tobacco talks stall Shareholders back bid for Energy as BAT voices concerns One possible candidate for sale Chris Godsmark and Michael Harrison

David Usborne New York

The high-stakes negotiations for a truce in the tobacco litigation wars in the United States may have become snagged on fears expressed by British American Tobacco on the longterm consequences of a deal for its world-wide husiness.

The marathon talks between the attorneys general of some 36 states suing the industry to recoup the costs of treating smoking-relating diseases and representatives of the companies themselves broke up unexpectedly late on Tuesday. It is unclear when they might resume.

Under way since early April, the negotiations are aimed at reaching an agreement under which the companies would be protected from unlimited murabers of lawsuits in return for paying out as much as \$300bn (£183bn) for the establishment of a standing smokers' com-Sources said that worries whether the talks can be sal-

pensation fund.

have mounted inside the industry camp over a critical element to the deal that would recognise the right of the Food and Drug Administration to regulate the levels of nicotine in tobacco products. The logical conclusion could be a ban on nicotine as an ingredient altogether.

Most unnerved, reportedly, is BAT, which is the parent com-pany of Brown & Williamson, the third-largest cigarette man-ufacturer in the US after Philip Morris and RJ Reynolds. BAT was cited has having backed out of the talks for the time being while it reassesses its position.

Part of BAT's calculation appears to be the possible consequences beyond the US of the precedent of nicotine-level controls. While a relatively small player in the US, with 17 per cent of the market, BAT is the second-largest cigarette manu-facturer world-wide. A rippic effect in other world markets could be highly damaging. As both sides strain to see

vaged, the chief executive of BAT, Martin Broughton, was believed to be scheduled to fly to Washington on Friday to confront the issue himself,

There are also strains inside the anti-tobacco camp, however. Yesterday a coalition of health advocates, which includes David Kessker, the former FDA commissioner, wrote to President Bill Clinton urging him to pause before endorsing any deal that does not sufficiently tame the tobacco giants.

Any final agreement will need to be endorsed by the White House and translated into legislation nn Capitol Hill. If any sense emerges of the tobacco giants having been granted concessions, the package may become politically hard for Congress to swallow. A second issue is the breadth

of immunity that may be granted to the manufacturers. Many health advocates not involved in the talks are anxious that the industry should not be granted blanket immunity in perpetuity. help fund the hid.

The £3.6bn agreed takeover of Pacific Telecom, which serves 10

works which then rely upon the local BT loop to get access to everyone. The cable compa-

Energy Group, owner of East-era Electricity and the US coal producer Peabody, by the American utility PacifiCorp is expected to be announced early next week after the deal

ers yesterday. A dozen or so large UK and US investors, including Norwich Union, Scottish Mutual, Morgan Grenfell, Schroders, Clerical Medical, Merrill Lynch, Duff and Phelps and State Farm are thought to have indi-

cated their backing for the bid. Shares in Energy Group rose 61.5p to 641.5p yesterday, valuing the company at £3.34bn. On Tuesday it said that the recommended bid was likely to be pitched at just under 700p.

PacifiCorp, one of the largest US milities with a market capitalisation of \$60a (£3.90a) is expected to pay in cash and there is speculation that it will embark on a series of asset disposals to

would be its telecoms business, states in the western US and has revenues of about \$600m.

The UK electricity regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild, is understood to have been sounded out about the bid and received a positive response there are not likely to be any from institutional sharehold-regulatory burdles. Professor Littlechild cleared each of the seven previous bids by US util-ities fur British RECs without conditions and the PacifiCorp-Energy deal presents no obvi-

ous competition concerns. Sources close to the deal also argued yesterday that it ought not to run into political opposition since there would be no job losses at Eastern Electricity and Mangaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, has made it clear that the primary consideration in merger cases will continue to be competition.

Although Energy Group's executive chairman, Derek Bonham, would be in line for a £900,000 pay-off, PacifiCorp is thought to be keen to hold on to the senior management.

GEC to close down radio plant

Barrie Clement

GEC yesterday made another step in the restructuring of its defence businesses by revealing plans to close a military radio production plant in Chelmsford, Essex with the loss of more than

The business, part of GEC-Marconi, makes military and civil radio equipment but has been hit by falling orders from the Ministry of Defence and stiff competition. The company gave no explanation for its decision and said the cutbacks were not linked to the government's decision to buy a new generation of battlefield radio equipment from a consortium including

ITT and Racal. "There's no specific reason for the closure. It's part of a longer running downsizing move. Orders have been dropping and dropping and there's which would hit all grades or just not enough work to keep staff from production line workthat kind of set up going." said a spokesman.

The job losses are the third at the site in four years and will

cut the workforce to about 500. The remaining staff will be redeployed in other GEC-Marconi businesses on the same production site and in the surrounding area.

The Chelmsford operations currently employ 3,900 people. working on a variety of radar and research and development activities. GEC-Marconi said it would abandon production of some civil radio equipment. hut would move military production to other locations.

Officials of the MSF manufacturing union condemned the closure and argued that it would be a "devastating blow" to the workforce which would also decimate the local economy. Larry Brooke, National Secretary of the union, said that most of the redundancies would be compulsory. The company's spokesman also predicted compulsory job losses were likely, which would hit all grades of

Mr Brooke said mood at the company was for immediate

ers to managers.

Oftel pushes to keep phone ban

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

British Telecom's hopes for an early end to the han on broadcasting entertainment down its phone network have been dealt a serious blow by the industry watchdog. Oftel, fuelling doubts about the strength of the group's special relationship with

the new Government. Don Cruickshank, the telecommunications regulator, is understood to have advised the Department of Trade and Industry that the entertainment ban could not be lifted unilaterally without a much broader and more lengthy review of

The Oftel submission, made a couple of weeks ago, warned that the "ban" affected all the national telephones operators and not just BT Ending the restriction would involve radical changes to the wider policy on the way broadcasting licences are awarded, including the role of the Independent Television Commission, which could need changes to the legislation.

The advice follows comments by Chris Smith, Minister for National Heritage, shortly after the election victory which implied the han could disappear next year if BT carried out its pledge to connect schools, colleges and hospitals to the information superhighway for free. A source close to Oftel said yesterday: "Don is making his position clear to ministers before they go ahead with the policy."

Another industry source said: Since Oftel gave its advice to

sion services down its network for 10 years from the start of the first cable TV franchises, which means the first review of the policy would be in 200t. In opposition Labour had backed a report by the Commons trade nd industry select committee which concluded the ban should probably be lifted next year.

Oftel is thought to have told the DTI that granting BT a na-tional broadcasting licence would complicate policy for other operators, including the ITV companies and the new digital terrestrial groups.

Reviewing the policy and changing the legislation, which was designed to encourage cable operators to make the heavy investment in local networks. would be difficult to complete by next year.

Doubts about BT's deal with Labour have grown since the election after Oftel revealed it had asked the company to offer low-price superhighway links to schools anyway and emphatically denied any link with the broadcasting ban. BT had hoped to launch its schools initiative last week but the announcement had to be abandoned after objections from senior government figures.

The move came at a sensitive time as BT waited to see whether it would be hit by the windfall tax on the privatised utilities. However ministers were concerned at giving the impression the company would escape the levy because of the schools deal.

Evans plans float of investment trust

Sameena Ahmad

Chris Evans, the whirling dervish of the biotechnology world, yesterday announced the flotation of his fourth company, Reabourne Merlin Life Sciences Investment Trust, to be valued at around £30m.

RMLIT, which published its pathfinder prospectus yesterday, will invest in life science companies in the UK and Europe. Mr Evans, who also founded quoted groups Celsis, Chiro-science and Toad and Merlin Fund which specialises in taking private hiotechs to flotation, said: This is the first exclusively European life sciences trust. We

at Merlin are working with

Finsbury and Reabourne. If

anyone is able to make wise investment decisions we are." Mr Evans said that RMLIT gave him and his team at Mer-lin an opportunity to offer their knowledge of the quoted sector to larger institutions. "Though my strength is in unquoted companies, I have experience company is coming to the main market in a placing and is raising going to waste," said Mr Evans, around £30m of fresh money.

who will be a principal adviser in the trust. He added that the trust had to be publicly floated because it would he difficult to attract large institutional funds into an unquoted vehicle.

Other directors include John Sclater, chairman of RMLIT and also at Foreign & Colonial, and Anthony Townsend, chairman of Rea Brothers and a director at Reabourne, a joint venture with Finsbury Asset

Management.
At least three quarters of the placing proceeds will be invested in quoted life science companies, with a fifth committed to Mr Evans' Merlin Fund. The placing price has been set at 100p a share and dealings will begin on 23 June.

Separately, directors at Galen, which also published its pathfinder prospectus yesterday, and Irish academia will be quids in when the 30-year-old drug development to services group floats on the UK stock market in July valued at £180m. The

man whose 33 per cent personal stake could be worth £60m, plans to donate 6 per cent of the group's existing share capital to a charitable trust to fund research at his alma mater, the Queen's University of Belfast.

The new trust will sell around I per cent of the ordinary shares to provide initial funds for research at the University's Schools of Chemistry and Pharmacy. Other Galen directors also stand to gain. The 20 per cent stake of John King, chief executive, could be worth around £36m and Geoffrey Elliot, finance director will own

just under 10 per cent.

Mr King said: "We are different from anything that exists in the sector today. We are profitable and have always funded our needs from internal cash flow. This will add to our own

Galen's activities range from developing prescription medi-cines to providing drug com-panies with services such as clinical trial supplies. Dealings will begin in mid July.

Waddington makes £4m from society conversions

Magnus Grimond

Waddington, the consumer packaging to plastic plates group, has revealed its own £4m windfall from huilding so-ciety conversions and flotations this year. The group, one of the largest junk mail printers in the country, reckons this is the value of sales it has won providing the prospectuses and leaflets mailed out to millions of savers, borrowers and policy holders in mutual organisations converting

Martin Buckley, chief executive, said the group was probably the largest integrated provider of services, from printing and stuffing envelopes to manipulating computer databases of direct mail target customers, in a husiness growing at more than 20 per cent a year.

Waddington did part of the printing and handled all the data processing for more than 9 mil-

Halifax's stock market launch, as well as dealing with the Bristol & West sale to the Bank of Ireland and the Woolwich float. Work on the Norwich Union flotation was done partly in Bel-gium while Waddington handled some project management for the operation in Canada.

The group, which will have in-vested £18m in the business over the 24 months to the end of this financial year to March, has been so husy it has been turning husiness away. But Mr Buckley insisted the huilding society work had been no bonanza: "If we hadn't had the husiness with them, we would have had it with someone else."

Forecasting further growth in all its markets this year, Mr Buckley revealed a surge in Waddington's pre-tax profits from £11.9m to a record £32.1m in the year to 29 March, which represented a 25 per cent rise once exceptional losses on husi-

Earnings per share on the same hasis rose 21 per cent to 21.6p, and a final dividend of 6p raised the total payment for the year

by 11 per cent to 10.4p.

The figures were well received by the stock market, which pushed the shares 25p higher to 297.5p. Francesca Raleigh, an analyst at Panmure Gordon, suggested Waddington had shrugged off its reputation for finding banana skins. It was now one of a handful of stocks in the paper and packaging sector where the growth story remained intact. She has raised her profits forecast for the current year by £1m to £37m.

All four divisions raised profits, although the biggest, the cartons operation, continued to be restrained by problems in the UK. The group moved in February to cut costs and introduce 24-hour-a-day working but the business has been hit by a cut in demand from hig customers.

British Land profits from deals

British Land: At a glance

Market value: £2.79bn, share price 588.5p

1994

53.9

1993

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN the deal making skills of John Ritblat, the veteran chairman of British Land, bave not always EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON been in demand from the stock mar-

recovery phase

the group's shares rose 16p to 431p.

from the housing market, which start-

Five-Year record

Net Rental locaine (£111)

Pre-tax profits (£m)

Earatogs per chare (p)

Dividends per share (p)

Share price (pence)

Net assets per share (pence)

Meyer is still getting no real help

ket, but they have certainly proved themselves of late. There was scepticorporate action currently ruled out, cism over the £1bn series of deals which this looks more like an opportunistic move to take advantage of low interin 1994 and 1995 gave the property est rates. Meanwhile, NAV forecasts group 100 per cent control over Broadgate Properties, owner of the of 580p for the current year suggest the shares remain reasonable value. giant development in the City of the same name. Most such doubts have been dispelled by the 24 per cent out-

hut any remaining worries will have been dissipated by the latest figures. British Land yesterday reported a 47 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £91.2m in the year to March, a 37 per cent rise once capital gains are stripped out. Net assets per share jumped a very respectable 14 per cent to 487p over the 12 months. Taking account of the dilutive effect of the current cash March, operating profits advanced 12 months. raising, a £300m convertible Eurobond. the diluted net asset value (NAV) at

performance of the shares, up 1p at 588.5p yesterday, since the start of 1996,

493p has at last surpassed the 1989 peak.
The inclusion of Broadgate, particularly its developments around Ludgate
Hill, helped propel the 6.9 per cent increase in the valuation of City office properties last year. But at around 20 per cent of the total £5.1bn portfolio, Broadgate alone cannot explain the double-digit rise in net assets per

share last year.

Indeed, British Land is relatively under-exposed to the currently sexy property area of out-of-town retail sheds. This was the only part of the portfolio to match the growth of the group, with valuations in retail warehousing rising 14.7 per cent, down from 20.3 per cent the year before.

More important to the group's performance has been its financial engineering, notably Fehruary's issue of shares at 520p - above the net asset val-ue - to help finance the £230m payment for a half share in a joint venture with Great Universal. With similar ventures signed up with Scottish & Newcastle and Tesco, the BL Universal deal takes to £1.3m the value of property in joint companies. The company reckons this allows it to do bigger deals and widen the spread of the portfolio,

while earning management fees. Certainly, it is looking one of the less risky bets on the property market. Gear-ing is a reasonable 89 per cent and British Land is no MEPC, rushing nut to bet the house on speculative developments. The biggest prospect is Plantation House in the City, which could he a modest £150m to £200m project, and even that depends upon demand.

Even so, British Land has been no slouch at turning over the portfolio, 90 per cent of which has been acquired in the last eight years. The latest fund raising takes the war chest to £1bn, but with

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months to filter through to the business. But rising softwood prices are benefiting the group. Having crashed by around 35 per cent last year, prices bounced around 44 per cent in the year. That, and a shift away from planks to more finished items like window frames, left operating profits in the timber division up over 100 per cent to £10.3m on flatish sales of £208m.

The benefits of the revamp of the 197
Jewson huilder's merchant outlets have still to come through. Sales from that division rose just 2 per cent to Meyer moves into

that division rose just 2 per cent to £443m and profits dropped £3m to £22m, largely as a result of disruption from refurbishment. Alan Peterson, t has been a long time coming, but the £23m restructuring at Meyer International, the timber importer and who will become chief executive after was 7 per cent down in the year to March, operating profits advanced 12 per cent to £47.4m and pre-tax profits were 21 per cent ahead at £45.4m. Un-John Dobby retires, said the group lost £16m in sales volume over eight weeks as the shops were re-kitted. Meyer is rightly trying to add value to nuts, bolts and nails. The group has Dulux paint centres in 47 of its shops and hires out derlying earnings per share rose 18 per cent to 23.3p. The market was further equipment like generators and drills in 1.20. Supplying bathrooms and kitchens cheered by positive noises on trading in the first few months of this year and should also be a money spinner.

Meyer is also talking confidently about expanding – buying family-run merchants and building its stronger US ed picking up in the second half of last merchants and building its stronger US year and which typically takes six side. Including net cash, the group

1996

263

62.1

112

8.55

15.7

1995

49.1

B.12

Portfolio by use

157

could spend £115m and still be com-fortably geared at 30 per cent.

SEAQ VOLU

House brokers BZW are forecasting profits of £56m for the current financial year, which would put the shares on 15 times forward earnings. That doesn't look too expensive, given the potential for the housing market and, more importantly, the repair and maintenance market to lend a helping

Robert Wiseman milks its position

hand. Buy for recovery.

elped by its dominant market position in Scotland and lack of exposure to the declining doorstep milk delivery market, Robert Wiseman Dairies has proved to be one of the best performers in a difficult dairy sector. Its shares have doubled since 1994, a period when rivals such as Northero Foods have been distracted by rationalisation in their doorstep milk operations as the market struggles to cope with over-capacity.

Wiseman has managed to avoid the agony as it never had any significant

doorstep operation in the first place. It has concentrated more on supermarket customers supplied through state of the art plants in Scotland, and more recently Manchester, as it attacks the market south of the border. For shareholders, the question is

whether the shares have run far enough. Yesterday's full-year results were the first since its hawkish acquisition of £4.8m worth of assets from the Scottish Pride business, which collapsed into receivership in February.

Pre-tax profits were 37.5 per cent ahead at £11.9m. This was after a £360,000 charge for re-organisation costs relating to the Scottish Pride deal completed in March, just a couple of weeks before the company's year end.
Volumes were ahead due to new
supermarket business and the

additional volumes from Scottish Pride. The company has also acquired a further 7.4 acres of land at the Manchester plant site to develop the production facilities.

On the down side, operating margins were cut from 7 per cent to 6.6 per cent due to pressure on hulk cream and liquid milk prices. The better news is that raw milk input prices are easing. Robert Wiseman ought to be one of

the beneficiaries of the expected shakeout in the dairy sector as buying prices should fall and selling prices rise. But the shares - unchanged at 196.5p yesterday - have had such a good nin that they now trade on a forward rating of more than 14, a substantial premium to rivals Unigate and Northern Foods. A bit too expensive for now.

lion customers mailed ahead of nesses sold were stripped out. which include Bird's Eye. The Family PC From Only



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29 Showrooms Nationwide

lobby over licence limits

Cathy Newman

GWR Group, the radio opera-tor, is to lobby Chris Smith, the National Heritage Secretary. for a relaxation of the rules on UK radio ownership.

Henry Meakin. GWR's chairman, said yesterday that the group would be meeting with Mr Smith "in due course" to discuss ways in which the current points system - which allows any one operator a maximum 15 per cent share of the UK audience

could be changed. Mr Meakin said GWR's14.9 per cent share of the audience prevented it from acquiring further licences in the UK, and it has therefore been forced to

focus on acquisitions overseas.
The radio company will also confront Mr Smith about allowing commercial radio companies to compete more effectively with the BBC. Unlike commercial radio stations, BBC stations do not have to comply with the "Promise of Perfor-mance" in the Broadcasting Act, which requires them to stick to promises on content and audience profile made at the

time of applying for licences. Commercial radio stations ave consistently argued that BBC stations can unfairly change their remit in response to competition.

GWR yesterday announced that it was to sell its St Albanshased radio station, 96.6FM, to Essex Radio for £725,175 in cash and Independent Radio News shares. GWR's chief executive, Ralph Bernard, said as he unveiled a 41 per cent increase in underlying earnings for the 18 months to the end of March, that Classic FM had moved into profit since GWR hought it last August. Mr Bernard said he anticipated first profits from London News Radio later this month.

He added that, following the merger of Capital Radio and Virgin Radio Holdings and Capital's subsequent withdrawal from its sales operation, Media Sales and Marketing, GWR had decided to take its own national sales in-house. MSM represented all of GWR's stations except Classic FM.

AT&T campaign targets freephone users

AT&T the US phone giant, intensified its assault on the British market with a multi-million pound advertising campaign backing a push to poach freephone business customers from British Tele-com. From Monday phone customers using freephone 0800 numbers will be able to switch to AT&T without changing their number. AT&T released research showing 60 per cent of British firms were unaware that so-called freephone number portability was to be-come available from next week. It said a similar change in the US had fuelled a boom in freephone numbers. .

Euromoney pays £4.5m for Mondiale stake

Euromoney Publications is paying up to £4.5m for a 40 per cent interest in Mondiale Corp, a UK publishing company specialising in the husiness to husiness international office products mar-ket. The total sum is dependent on 1997 results. Euromoney said Mondiale is the market leader in its sector. It also publishes the magazine Office Products International. Mondiale made pre-tax profits after exceptionals of £486,700 last year on sales of £1.6m.

Biocompatibles buys German group

Biocompatibles International, the medical coatings group whose shares have risen by a factor of almost 10 in the last two years. is huying a German urology group in a £5.5m all shares deal. It is acquring Urotech Medizinische Technologies, which manufacturers products such as catheters and heart stents. However, Biocompatible shares shaded lower yesterday on its annual statement. It said that while sales of cardivascular products were ahead, those of Proclear replacement contact lenses had slowed.

P&O confident of merger compromise

The P&O shipping group said it was "confident" it could reach a compromise with the European Commission over its plans to merge ferry services with rival Stena Line. The comments came after the Commission confirmed it had serious doubts about whether it could clear the proposal to merge ferry services on routes be-tween Dover and Calais, Newhaven and Dieppe, and Dover and Zeehrugge. P&O said it would be able to meet the objections, which involve separating the running and marketing of the merged services from other, separate P&O and Stena operations.

Chemring shares up despite losses

Chemring, the troubled defence products to lifejackets group, saw its shares soar 22.5p to 100p yesterday, despite announcing a plunge to first-half losses of £13.1m from profits of £4.47m before. Chemring said it expected to return an operating profit in the second half and resume a "reasonable" level of earnings next year.

Terrover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
59.3m (49.1m)	29 1m (25.6m)	13.28p (11.85p)	8.45p (7.8p)
67.3m (65.4m)	13 9m (12 1m)		520 (-)
· (-)	91.2m (62.1m)		9.00 (-)
31.2m (40 9m)			2p (3.76p)
18.2m (17.3m)			6.1p (6.1p)
32.6m (26.5m)			0.7p (0.65p)
15.1m (16.3m)	0.28m (0.45m)		0.5p (0.65p)
23 4m (19.9m)			2.4p (2.2p)
105.m (82.2m)			
			8p (7p)
			0.92p (-)
			4.66p (4.235p)
			2.78p (2 34p)
			7 Sp (7.5p)
			3.915p (3.915p
			7p (5.9p)
		26.5p (-2.1p)	12p (11 Sp)
	4.56m (-4.51m)	3.150 (-5.41p)	0.75p (nil)
	11.9m (8.6m)	10 6µ (8p)	3.5p (3.1p)
	2 01m (1.25m)		6 1p (5.8p)
19.5m (19.4m)	5 05m (6.26m)		1.50 (1.50)
310m (299m)			10 40 (9 4p)
25 5m (23.0m)			1.5p (1.35p)
31.6m (25.2m)			1.20 11.500
	67.3m (65.4m) · (·) 31.2m (65.4m) · (·) 31.2m (40.9m) 18.2m (17.3m) 32.6m (25.5m) 15.1m (16.3m) 23.4m (19.9m) 165.m (22.2m) 6 93m (6.66m) 2.03bn (15.5bc) 63.5m (39.7m) · (·) 11.5m (115m) 158m (147m) 1.14bn (1.22bn) 72.1m (76.8m) 193m (148m) 38.6m (28.6m) 39.5m (19.4m) 310m (293m)	\$3.5m \$49.1m 29 1m (25.6m) 67.3m (65.4m) 1.3 9m (12.1m) (-) 97.2m (62.1m) 13.2m (40.9m) -1.3.1m (4.47m) 18.2m (17.3m) 1.33m (1.61m) 32.6m (26.5m) 1.96m (1.45m) 32.6m (26.5m) 1.96m (1.45m) 32.4m (19.9m) 3.81m (2.90m) 15.1m (16.2m) 3.81m (2.90m) 15.5m (16.65m) 0.48m (0.36m) 2.030m (1.51bm) 2.43m (16.3m) 63.8m (39.1m) 12.0m (5.52m) 64.7m (20.6m) 15.5m (14.7m) 20.6m (16.4m) 15.5m (14.7m) 20.6m (16.4m) 1.140m (1.25m) 45.4m (1.1m) 1.140m (1.25m) 45.6m (4.51m) 19.3m (14.8m) 11.9m (6.6m) 19.3m (14.8m) 11.9m (6.6m) 19.3m (14.9m) 5.95m (6.26m) 19.3m (19.4m) 5.95m (6.28m) 31.0m (2.99m) 32.7m (11.5m) 31.0m (2.99m) 32.7m (11.5m)	\$3.5m \$48.1m

Victrex may move

Sameena Ahmad

Peter Rowley, chairman of Victrex, the high-tech plastics group, said yesterday that he had considered closing the group's UK operations and taking the company to the US.

Victrex, which sells only 3 per cent of its products in the UK but has its manufacturing and research plants here, has been badly affected by the strength of the pound. The group issued a profits warning in January af-ter failing to hedge against the pound. Profits for the six months to March fell 19 per cent to £5.1m.

Mr Rowley said that with half its business in the US, Victrex had considered a Nasdag listing: "Closing our UK operations takes the currency factor out of the equation."

However he stressed that this was a long-term consideration.

FET HETERS

Explaining wby there were so few UK sales, Mr Rowley launched a hitter attack on the British technology industry. Can you name a major Britishowned car company. Where do we feature in aerospace? Britain is not in the first league of world technology."

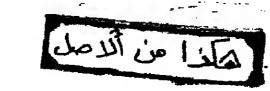
CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF **INCEPTA PLC**

IN THE MATTER OF THE **COMPANIES ACT 1985** NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division | dated 21st May 1997 confirming the reduction of the above company £29,564,011 to £28,162,024 approved by the Court was registered with the Registrar of

Companies on 29th May 1997. Dated 12th June 1997 Wedlake Bell, 16 Bedford Street, Covent Garden London WC2E 9HF Tel: 0171 395 3000

Fax: 0171 836 736t Ref: LSB/49249/15952 Solicitors for the Company



Halifax adds its pounds to Footsie's financial sector

FISE 100 4724.8 14.8 FISE 250 4506.9 +9.6 FISE 350 SEAQ VOLUME joined the exclusive club. 872.6 shares, and Smith & Nephew, the 51,460 bargains Gilts Index gated to the supporting FISE 250 index.

Data Bank

Halifax, with a capitalisation of £17.6bn, is ranked as the Share spotlight stare price, pence

Financials increased their altensive Footsie presence and it ready powerful Footsie presence when, as expected, the strength of its 17 money shares which has played a significant product former building societies, Halifax and Alliance & Leicester, joined the exclusive club.

Footsie's strength has failed to Borton, the stores chain, inspire the rest of the market. Gallaher and Avis Europe healthcare group, were releare among the 250 newcomers. Laura Ashley, Albert Fisher and ML Laboratories are included in the casualties.

of £17.6bn, is ranked as the eighth largest quoted company. A&L (£3.6bn) is 67th.

They join Footsie a week on Monday Hollis. Monday. Halifax eased 5.5p to 756.5p and A&L 4p to 619.5p. Burton fell 4.5p to 126p but Smith firmed to 172.5p.



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

shine to Barciays, lifting the shares 5p to 1,227p but posi-tive noises from HSBC failed to inspire Lloyds TSB, off 4p at 524p. National Westminster Bank, where there is talk of institutional discontent, fell 18p to 786p with Salomon Broth-ers thought to have trimmed its forecasts by £70m to £1.82bn

للذا من الاصل

and by £70m to £2.05bn.

to 641.5p in busy turnover. At one time the shares were 85p higher but a combination of profit taking and regulatory jit-ters reined back the charge.

Southern Electric, the re-maining regional electricity group operating under its own banner, gained 15p to 431p as the market awaited what is regarded as the mevitable bid.

investment presentation due, retreated 5.5p to 526p.

Arges, the catalogue stores chain, fell 20.5p to 575p as ABN Amro Hoare Govett, which regards the shares as a hold, trimmed its profit estimates. Danka, the US-controlled office equipment group, put on 18.5p to 620p with talk it has lined up another bid target. A cash call could accompany any deal.

Laing expect profits of £4.6m

paid £13.4m for Tor Coatings and remains acquisitive. Timber group Meyer in-ternational produced better-ternational produced betterthan-expected figures, gaining 16p to 431p. Travis Perkins be around £3m (£5.2m). jumped 26p to 471.5p in sym- Drew Scientific eased 2.5p

pathy Integrated Asset Management, the fledgling financial group, was suspended at 125p as it duly confirmed the

1,365.5p, helped by an analysts visit to the Airbus facility at Toulouse in France.

Booker, seeing analysts next week, shaded to 277.5p and Cadbury Schweppes, with an Edward progress by around £400,000. Crédit Lyonnais Laing expect profits of £4.6m this year. Last summer EC but has since splashed out fall for Tor Coatings for The Magic Pub unsuccessful bid for Morland Co. Gibbs has found the going

> to 147.5p. It has brought forward the development of its new blood tests which could detect heat problems and

	Smith firmed to 172.5 With the Norwich insurance group destination and the start next week and of mer building societies join, the index's heavy from the index'	tunion the session bluc chips seemed content to drift aimlessly. Second and third liners, had a better day. Set to The 250 index edged forward and the FTSE SmallCap Index moved into positive territory. The 250 index edged forward and the FTSE SmallCap Index moved into positive territory. The 250 index edged forward and the FTSE SmallCap Index moved into positive territory. The 250 index edged forward and the FTSE SmallCap Index moved into positive territory. The 250 index edged forward and the FTSE SmallCap Index moved into positive territory. The 250 index edged forward and the FTSE SmallCap Index moved into positive territory. The 250 index edged forward and the FTSE SmallCap Index moved into positive territory. The 250 index edged forward and the FTSE SmallCap Index edged forward and the FTSE Small Cap Index edged forward and the	ad Scottish Hydro Electric, 20.5p it at 421p, were higher on specia. ulation they could be caught in the takeover action. General Electric Co improved another 7p to 360.5p as rumours about a merger with in British Aerospace continued to 35p to 497.5p. day after Lehman Brother predicted they would suffer summer of indifferent health British Biotech fell 9.5p to 289p and SkyePharma 4p to 35p. Shield Diagnostic loss 35p	s acquisition of stockbroker John Siddall. Chemring, the military equipment group, jumped 22.5p to 100p after company doctor Ken Scobie took over as chairman. In the past 12 months Chemring has fallen from 445p; profit warn-
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Investing in the school system will not pay off for decades

hat's so great about edu-cation? The Government has driven home the lesson that this is its top priority. bul the lecture has the ring of motherhood and apple pie. It is fair to ask, in a spirit of intelligent enquiry, how exactly education boosts the economy and how it

enhances fairness and opportunity.

Evidence from across the Atlantic about past improvements in the US school system sheds fascioating light on how much advances in individuals' skills contribute to economic growth and changes in earnings inequality. The conclusions are that the big E has played more of a part than previously supposed in establishing America's eco-nomic dominance, and it can make an enormous difference to earnings differentials. The drawback is that

the effects have to be assessed over decades - this is no quick fix. The research, by Claudia Goldin and Lawreoce Katz at the National Bureau of Ecocomic Research, looks at the spread of high school education in the early part of this century. Only about 10 per cent of young Americans graduated from high school -or preparatory school, rather - in 1910. By 1940 this had riseo to 50 per ceot.

During this period the modern secondary school was virtually invented in America. "By the 1950s youths in the United States were three decades ahead of their British conoterparts in terms of high school enrolmeot and graduatioo rates," write Goldin and Katz,

Like all economics, this is a tale of demand and supply, the demand for and supply of the skills occded in the workforce. Demand for skill depends on the kind of capital equipment husinesses oeed their employees to work with and how they work with it, so changes in demand are determined by technical developments and investment. Supply of skill depends on the education system.

The technical changes intro-duced during the Industrial Revolution teoded to deskill the workforce, requiring factory fodder

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DianeCoyle

In the UK, the average premium a college degree adds to weekly earnings is between 12 and 22 per cent for men and 38 to 42 per cent for women

men. By contrast, during the 1910s and 1920s, the spread of electricity led to a profusioo of processes that required oew skills, such as knowledge of chemistry and machine drawing. In addition, goods ranging from cars and radios to refrigerators and office calculators

boosted the need for a wider spread of skills. The productivity gains permitted by the new technologies could oot have been realised without improved education.

Yet the return to education in terms of the extra wage premium somebody could expect for com-pleting high school fell sharply between the turn of the century and the late 1920s even as productivity and average earnings rose steadily. The return to a year of secondary education for the average male declined from about 22 per cent to 12 per cent. The reason was the more than commensurate increase in the supply of skills thanks to the high school movement. The decline in returns to educatioo cootinued in the years after the Second World War, resulting in a very ooticeable reduction in income inequality.

Goldin and Katz have recalculated the increase in the US's stock of educational capital between of it. In addition, boosting the supof educational capital between 1910 and 1950 based on new data. They find that the increase in years of schooling of the workforce was greater than earlier work indicated.
"The increase in the US educational stock was a major cootributor to American growth across much of the 20th century. Education's role in economic growth may have been larger than previously thought." they conclude

The pattern has changed during the past 30 years. Productivity growth, in the US and elsewhere, has slowed sharply even though average years of education have cootinued to climb. At the same time incomes have started to become more unequal. There is widespread evidence that the returns to education

Returns to education in Britain

have suffered is the result of the restriction of educational improvemeots to a privileged minority. Unfortunately, confirming the diagnosis does not make the cure easy. For instance, there is the issue of how to improve the education system and the quality of its output. The other important point is that these kinds of shift in levels of

skill in the workforce take decades to achieve. If our school system improved substantially tomorrow the full effect would not show until today's infants joined the workforce in 2020. All credit to the Labour government for making education its top three priorities, but we will oot see the results until well into the next century.

and increasing. In the UK, according to research by the IFS**, the

average premium a college degree

adds to weekly earnings is between

12 and 22 per ceot for men and 38

The explanation for this pattern

- slower growth, greater earnings

inequality - is probably an increase in demand for skills un-

matched by an increase in supply.

There is good reasoo to believe

information technology requires cleverer people to work with it. But the supply of educational attainment has not increased in the same way

as in did earlier this ceotury.

The clear cooclusion is that

boosting the national investment in

education will have the desired results. Past experience suggests a

more skilled workforce does boost

economic growth when technology

changes in such a way that extra

ply of skills tends to reduce earn-

ings differentials. The hig increase

in inequality that the US and Britain

to 42 per cent for women.

* Education, the Wage Structure and Technological Change by Claudia Goldin and Lawrence Katz, NBER Reporter, National Bureau of Ecooomic Research, Spring 1997.

** Higher Education, Employment

and Earnings in Britain by Richard Blundell et al, Institute for Fiscal Studies, details on http://www.ifs. org.uk/research/education

Liffe Financial Futures

Arise, Sir Jürgen, as UK honours Siemens chief

History will repeat itself after 114 years when Jürgen Gehrels, chief executive of Siemens plc and the man with overall responsibility for the group's activities in the UK, is made an honorary KBE for his contribution to British industry. The original founder of the Siemens husiness in Britain, William Siemens was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1883 in recognition of his services to science.

Since then, of course, its assets have been sequestrated not once hut twice during two world wars, something over which the press release discreetly draws a veil. But in the 11 years since Herr Gehrels took over the UK operations in 1986 turnover of Siemens UK has risen from something

over £100m to an estimated £2bn. He rapidly rebuilt the company through a combination of organic growth, oew investment and acquisitions. He was a prime mover in the setting up of Siemens Semi-conductors' £1.1bn plant oo North Tyneside, in 1995 the largest ever inward investment in the UK.

Getting the best out of the 1997 Economic Summit, which opens in Denver, Colorado oext week, is likely to be a costly affair. Taking part in the talks is likely to be the cheapest option of all. My colleague who will be there to get a flavour of the world's most serious problems from the world's most serious politicians is already being offered a variety of attractions, from a souvenir photo of herself riding Boz the (stuffed) 800lb bull, a free tour of the Coors Brewery and a one-to-one with Bill Coors himself, a co-chairman of the Host Committee.

For the less energetically inclined the Rita B Saloo offers a geot's haircut at \$40, a woman's haircut and styling for \$60.
Colouring costs \$60 and highlights \$90. Cheapest item oo the menu is a nail polish change at \$15, A full hour's body massage will set you back \$60, but a chair massage is just \$1 a minute.

I hear with a harely concealed sense of outrage that Guinness of all people have signed a contract with Carl Pickford Associates, the specialist advertising company

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Jürgen Gehrels: History revisited for Sie

which has bought exclusive rights to advertise in public loos of all places, the spiritual home of writers of rude rhymes from Kilroy onwards. Carl Pickford, a former assistant manager of Duran Du-ran, who runs CPA has already signed up 2,000 sites mainly in London and the South-east. He tells me that outdoor poster advertising may well have reached saturation point, but indoor puh advertising is an open book, a hlank sheet of paper so to speak.

It can deliver a captive audience for anything from 30 secoods to 3.5 minutes according to scientific research, and can target meo and womeo separately. The first Guinness ads will include a rather risque slogan based on the hokey-cokey lyrics: In, out, shake it all about etc. The company will service its sites regularly and thinks it has the answer to all those jokesters who think they can gild the lily while they strain the greens. I sense a challenge,

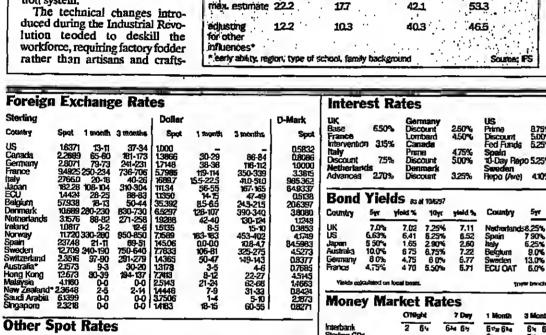
The 24th annual luncheoo and presentation of awards to winners of the annual Extel Survey of Investment Analysts promises to be a swift and sober affair. Extel had booked the Guildhall oo 2 July

before the Chancellor chose the same date for his first Budget. Luoches at the Guildhall are not lightly cancelled so the organisers are promising to hring proceedings to an end by 2.15pm so analysts can get back to their posts before Gordoo Brown rises to his feet. Marjorie Scardino the chief executive of Pearson is presenting the awards at the eod of the meal

Eddie George is a hard man to keep out of a diary column these days. Tomorrow he will be turning up at the Cranfield School of Management, to receive an honorary MBA. Also up for an honour is Sir Colin Marshall, the chairman of British Airways and presideot of the CBI.

Tony Hales, chief executive of Allied Domecq is not a man to duck a tough questioo. In his column On the Record in the group's house journal ADventure he is asked: "What effect would a. single currency in Europe have on our husiness?" He replies: "Many issues have to be resolved before I can give you a detailed answer to. that question." There you have it.

Clifford German



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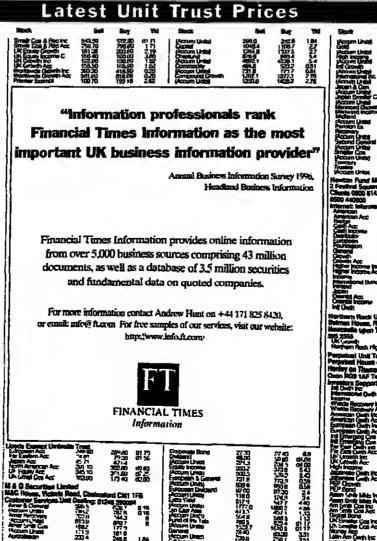
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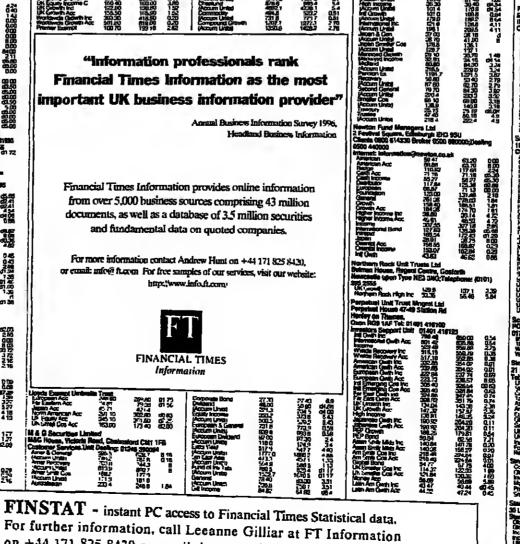
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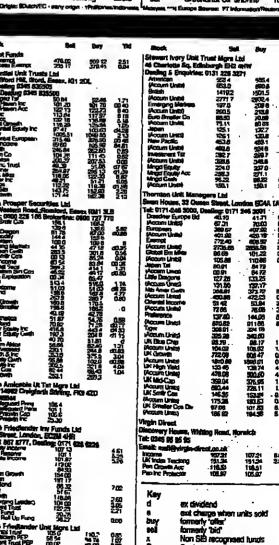
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on +44 171-825-8430 or email: leeanne.gilliar@fl.com





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20 WASTWATER ME STAKES CLASS

'Mere mortals' try to stop the charge of Tiger

When a spectator asked Faxon to pose for a photograph, he replied: "It's the US Open; I can't smile." And that was only

The US Open, never hig on laughs, is renowned for producing winners who are not necessarily the best in the world but have tungsten-lined cardiovas-Andy Norths - no one is quite sure how he came to win two US Opens - is meant to be over now that we have Tiger Woods. As at Augusta. Woods is in line to break more of Jack Nicklaus' records. Victory here would make him the first player since the Golden Bear, who plays his 150th major championship alongside his son Gary, a qualifier, to win the first two majors of the year.

Woods is adamant he will not think about the Grand Slam unminds about what he should or

should not be doing. "The thing that has changed dramatically in my life is the nitpicking of what I do, people critiquing all my actions," Woods said. He admits he cannot get everything right, and misses not getting a hit of peace and cular systems. But the era of the The Masters champion attempted to find some yesterday when he went out at 6.15am, only to be asked to leave the course after a few holes because it was not yet open.

proportions where the 21-yearold receives between 2,000 and 4,000 letters a week and, like only Michael Jordan, Woods has his own Nike label of clothing. However, the media and poliiical backlash has also kicked in, starting with Woods describing less he is leading going into the final round of the US PGA with the first three legs in the bag.

Thinsel as Cabinasian the section one of the established ethic groups. The latest controversy involved his himself as "Cablinasian" rather

Tigermania has reached the

All you need to know about the US Open was contained in an incident involving Brad Faxon

But as he has found in the last two months, that does not stop looks at golf's major attraction at the US Open which starts today

coach Butch Harmon, who sixth, 10th and 15th. Two of works at a course in Houston. those holes are converted par-Lochinvar, which excludes fives, while the 607-yard ninth women. "I can't be a champi- is a three-shotter even for

on of all caus-Woods Card of the course Without the Hole Yards Par Hole Yards Par extreme adsaid. his 1 402 After 4 10 465 4 vantage he had worst finish as a 2 235 3 11 415 4 at Augusta, the 455 4 12 187 3 theory is that 434 4 13 461 4 Woods can hit and 4 14 439 4 lesser clubs as professional at 3 455 the Memorial, 4 Woods spent 5. 407 4 14 439 three days with 6 475 4 15 583 5 far as others
Harmon at 7 174 3 18 441 4 hit their dri-Lochinvar last 8 362 4 17 480 4 vers, but is week, finishing 9 607 5 18 190 3 more likely to up with a 63 Out 3,551 35 in 3,652 35 keep it out of which could Total 7,213 yards (par 70) the five-inch the five-inch

easily have been less. At 7,213 yards, the longest have to keep the ball in play, in US Open history, and with a par of 70, Congressional is long hitting three-woods and twoeven for Woods. Hitting fairways and greens will be paramount and with the number of doglegs, Woods will only hit

irons. This will be no runaway by Woods, hut his challengers, among them Greg Norman and three drivers off the tee: at the Nick Faldo who missed the cut

hitting three-woods and two-

leave the practice ground and through his first round at Auhit the first tee running. "We didn't perform at all against him at Augusta," said a confident in the psychological warfare he Colin Montgomerie.

"It was obvious to all that witnessed Augusta that Tiger was very comfortable playing that golf course and will be for the next decade or so. Here, it is different. His greatest asset, his length, is taken more out of the equation and gives us mere mortals more of an opportunity to compete. The playing field is more level.

"But we are all anxious to find out how he copes with this form of golf. If he copes with this and wins here, as well as at Augusta, then we are all in

Especially as the physical aspect of Woods game may not even be his strongest suit. "I feel my mind is the strongest part about me," he said. "The biggest asset I have is to be able to think my way around the golf

Exhibit one is the way Woods

at Augusta, know they have to corrected a swing fault midway gusta, while his father, Earl, has taught him all tricks he learnt endured as a Green Beret.

"He has passed on to me how to deal with adversity and I've had a lot of things to deal with since I've turned pro. I've noticed that once I start playing in a tournament, I'm fine. All the things my dad has taught me are definitely working." With Sunday's final round on Father's Day, Woods Snr, and the punter with a £10,000 bet on Tiger, could be the only ones smiling.

COULD C EIDE ONLY ONES SIMILING.

TODAY'S SELECTED PREST-ROWND TEB-OFF
TIMES (85°): US unless statued: 12.30 C PerNY, A Coltart (650, K Green, 12.40 H Iman, 3
Carasinaw, J Nachiaus, 12.50 F Couples, I Woosnam (65), G Noerstan (14.6), 13.00 D Love, C
Montigomene (65), P McCarley (63), 14.00 P Livre, C
Strenge, N Proc (25m., I'Walson, 13.30 M Hubbart, I. Rartier, P McCarley (63), 14.00 P Hisrangon (1et, D Weldorf, F Funk, 15.20 B Langer
(650), Jumbo Ozale (Japan), F Zoeller, 16.50 P
Mitchell (65), 8 Fernagon, G Nockaus, 17.10 T Kee, J
M Clazaber (50), P Anger, 17.20 C Pawn, N
Faldo (65), 1 Jansen, 17.30 P Stevent, E Bs
(53), 1 Day, 27.50 R Russel (65), I. Mastince,
6 Krath, 16.50 M O'Mesia, L Wesbrood (65),
J Leonard, 19.10 P Stevent, E Bs
(53), 1 Day, 27.50 R Russel (65), J Mastince,
6 Krath, 16.50 M O'Mesia, L Wesbrood (65),
J Leonard, 19.10 P Stevent, E Bs
(53), 1 Day, 27.50 R Russel (65), J Martince,
D Dutel, 19.20: S McComp., D Clorke (65),
J Mengiler, 19.30 D White, M Dawson, *E Fryent
(65),



Tiger Woods (right) shares a joke with his coach, Butch Harmon, in practice for the US Open at the Congressional Country Club yesterday

Police investigate rogue bookmaker

GREG WOOD

The steady flow of positive publicity surrounding the latest running of the Derby on Saturday came to an abrupt halt yesterday when it emerged that received complaints from backa rogue bookmaker operating on the Hill, where thousands of spectators watch for free, made off with thousands of pounds of their money. Since the Hill is one of the few remaining unpect is the tip of the iceberg." regulated areas on British courses, punters who hacked Benny The Dip or any other winners cannot seek compensation for their loss.

The hookmaker attracted plenty of custom by offering Entrepreneur, the odds-on Derby hans and a phone number, and

4.45 Nanton Point

GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places).

GOODWOOD

HYPERION 2.10 Alarmist 2.40 Silent Pride 3.10 Heart

Of Armor (nb) 3.40 Sophomore 4.10 Gelmhriuli

0513 SUN IN THE MORNING (10) (D) (BF) 8 Mechan 8 11.

BETTIME: 4-6 Sun in The Morning, 9-4 Silent Pride, 8-1 Ivory's Joy, 10-1

046 NORYS JOY (10) K Way 85 ...

3040 STLENT PRIDE (S) M Usher 8 6...

3.20 CARLISLE GLASS 114yds

favourite, at 6-4 and even 7-4 both have turned out to be boagainst, while simultaneously offering competitive odds against

the remaining runners as well. One punter from Cardiff returned after the race to collect £300 but found no trace of him, and the track has already ers claiming to be owed a total of £10,500. "We have received 29 complaints so far," Stephen Wallis, the racecourse manag-A further embarrassing as-

pect for Epsom is that the conman had acquired a hookmakers' badge, apparently by showing a fake bookmakers' permit to a track official. "He gave an address in St Algus," Wallis said.

The Metropolitan Police, who are investigating the fraud, said detectives would be meeting with the Jockey Club. "We are certain that a case of deception has been carried out and at the moment the amount stolen seems to be somewhere in excess of £10,000," a police spokesman said.

Such frauds were once commonplace at many tracks, and an account of Derby day written in the mid-1800s describes punters holding hands and encircling bookmakers to be sure that they did not attempt to escape. Since the late 1950s, however, pitches and bookies have been more tightly regulated, but since the Hill is - almost

3.10 BADGER BREWERY HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,500 added 3YO 1m 4f

- 5 decinced -BETTING: 7-4 Nanton Point, 5-2 Cloud Impector, 6-1 Castle Courageous

recently as 1987, a bookmaker there who had been laying fancy odds had to be rescued from an angry crowd when he did not have money to pay them.

"It's a vast area and difficult to police properly," Ron Why-tock, of the National Association of Bookmakers, said. 'Anyone can turn up and if they've got the credentials they can bet. It's easy these days to get hold of a betting permit [issued by a magistrate], photo-

copy it and alter the details.
"I understand that officials went to the pitch and found two guys on it who were casual staff he'd picked up on the day. They didn't know what had happened to him and when his tickets was ... Lucan.

uniquely-free to the public, it they opened the bag it was does not fall within the rules. As recently as 1987, a bookmaker sit down with the Epsom authorities and discuss this in some depth to work out what safeguards we can provide for the public in future."

But it may be down to the public themselves to prevent any recurrence. If they happen upon a bookie whose odds seem too good to be true, they almost certainly are, and while Ladbrokes and Hills may not offer quite the same rates of reward, they will at least be there when you return for your winnings. It might also pay to study the name on the betting tickets he is handing out. The conman at Epsom on Saturday gave his name as John Batten, but the name on

Blue Goblin is bad for Trophy backers

Punters who had hacked Blue Goblin ante-post for Saturday's William Hill Trophy lost out yesterday when it was announced that the grey will wait for Royal Ascot. Luca Cumani's sprinter had been quoted as the 5-4 hot favourite by the sponsors of the York race.

A spokeswoman for Cumani's stable said: "Sheikh Mohammed has decided that he would like to see Blue Goblin run at Royal Ascot and he will now run in the Cork & Orrery

However, the stable may yet ive a runner in the shape of Yorkie George who will run "provided that the ground is on the soft side of good".

Whether Classic Cliche runs at Ascot depends on a gallop on Saturday. Last year's Ascot Gold Cup winner will work at Newmarket.

The five-year-old flopped when finishing last on his Yorkshire Cup comehack hut is among a provisional list of 10 Godolphin-owned horses for next week's Royal meeting. His connections stress that he will take his chance only if he "pleases" them in the gallop.

RICHARD EDMONDSON **NAP: Clermont City** (Newbury 2.30) (Newbury 4.30)

RESULTS BEVERLEY

200: 1. SURSET HARBOUR (R Ffrench) 9-1; 2. Pathaze 20-1; 3. Domineše 9-1; 4. Pharach's loy 8-1. 17 ran. 2-1 tay Ozey. 574-b; Art. 15 Kenlewell, Mcdicham). Tuber £11.40: £2.40, £3.90, £2.30, £1.90, OP. £72.70. CSF: £177.42 Tno: £430.70 (part won).

2-30: 1. PENNILESS (Kim Tinker) 7-1; 2. Sandy Shore 11. 1: 3. Ellenbrook 3-1. 11. ran. 7-4 fay Mister Bankes (Grit. ½, nk. (N. Tinker, Matton). Tota: £7.80: £3.00, £2.30, £1.70. DF: £44.20. CSF: £80.46, Yno: £43.80.

3.00: 1. DEE PEE TEE CEE (T Lucas)
13-2: 2. Duke Valentino 25-1; 3. Rohnhardt 13-2: 14 ran. 7-2 tav Euro Sceptic (4th. 2. 1%, IM W Essuerby, Shenff Hurston), Totes £9.30: £2.60, £7.10, £2.40, DF: £124.20, CSP; £163.69, Theasts £1,056.47, Trio: £543.50.

3.30: 1. FLYING MORTH (A Culture) 4-1; 2. Askern 11-2; 3. Gold Desiro 7-2. 6 ran. 7-4 fav Mr Feligh (5th). 8, 2%. (Mrs M Reveley, Saltburn, Fute: £5.20; £1.80, £2.90. DF: £21.80. CSF; £22.89. 4.00: 1. NATIONAL (Carley) 9-4 for; 2. Road Racer 3-1; 3, Augustan 3-1, 5 ran. 21, nk. (Lady Hernes, Littlehampton), Rote; E3.10; £1.70, £1.80. DP; £6.60, CSF; £8.96.

4.30; 1. NERONIAN (I Carroll) 6-4 fav; 2. Set The Point 4-1; 3. Freedom Chance 4-1. 5 ran. 174, 7. (8 Halls, Larr-bourn). Tokes £2.50; £1.60, £2.00. DF; £4.10. CSF; £7.69.

S.00: 1. PRIMA VERDE (K Darley) 5-2; 2. Impelus 33-1; 3. Taragous 20-1, 8 ran, 4-5 fav Round Robn (5th), 8, rk, 1, Curren, Newmorkely, Totes £3, 70; £1, 60, £2, 80, £2,30, DF; £63,80, CSF; £74,37, Trio; £156,50, NR; Rotor Man.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £41,772.82 carned forward to Newtury today). Placepot: £543.70. Quadpot: £56.40. Place 6: £305.98. Place 5: £91.42.

SALISBURY

2.20: 1. DESERT LADY (7 Sprake) 2-1 fav; 2. Universal Lady 10-1; 3. Midsummer Night 4-1, 3 ran, 7, 7s. Rf Charlton, Beckhampton), Tote: £3.90; £1.50, £1.60, £1.70. DF: £7.70. CSP: £20.30. Tro: £27.30. NR: Sabre Girl.

2.50: 1. BARRANAK (C Rutter) 6-1: 2. Lucky Dip 6-1: 3. High Domein 11-1. 12 ren. 3-1 fav Nede's Bonanza), 2- hd. IG McCourt, Wartage). Tote: £9.30; £2.50, £1.70, £3.90. DP £18.20. CSP: £36.96. Tricast: £354.98. Tric: £56.70. 3.20: 1. SEVER LINING (Mr.J Goldstein)

20.1; 2. Sharp lrap 9-2 fav; 3. Morocco 6-1, 12 ran, ½, nk. (A Jones, Eastbury). Tota: £29.10; £5.30, £2.30, £2.00, DF: £101.60. CSP. £94.94. Treast: £568.53. Tng: £134.10.

3.50: 1. WINTER GARDEN (I. Dettari) 2-7 fpv; 2. Tycooness 10-1; 3. Fletcher 14-1, 5 ran. 1, Y., (I. Cumani, Newmar-let), Tota: £1.30; £1.30, £2.30, DF: £5.10.

.....K Fedion 9

4.20: 1 MR SPONGE (L Detton) 8-11 fav; 2 Khafban 5-2; 3 Elex 20-1 10 ran. 5. 174. (I Balding, Kingsclere). Tota: 52.00: \$1.30, £1.20, £3.10. DP: £2.30. CSF F2 51 Too: £11.20. 4.50: 1. LOMBERTO (CRusser) 50-1; 2.

Scoss 11-4; 3. Motet 2-1 fav. 7 ran. Nr. nk. (V Soane, Aston Rowant). Totac £56,40; £6.50, £1.80. DF. £104.40. CSF: Placepot: £24.90. Quadpot: £3.60. Place & £47.85. Place 5: £28.89.

YARMOUTH

2.10: 1. ALBELIAN (M Fenton) 9-2; 2. Ginger Ringers 33-1; 3. Eponine 9-1, 10 ran, 7-2 fav Krosno, 7-, 7-, (M Bell), Totes 57-90; 21-90, 56-40, 52-60, DF: 591-80, CSF, £129, 32. Tricast: £1,165.52. Tho:

2.40: 1. SHAWDON (S Senders) 2-7 fav, 2. Just'chillin' 20-1: 3. Up The Wall 25-1. 5 ran. 4, 3. (Sr Mark Prescott). Toto: £1.10: £1.10, £3.10. DF: £3.90. CSF: £8.33.

3.10: 2. HATTAB (D Holland) 6-4 jt fav; 2. Venture Cepitalist 6-4 jt fav; 3. John-ny Staccato 3-1. 4 ran. 7, %, (P Walwyn). Tota: £2.20, DF: £2.50, CSF: £3.60. 3.40: 1 SICK AS A PARROT U Stacks 1. 7 ran. 1, 1% (C Dwyer). Tota: £4.90; £1.30, £1.50. DF: £4.00. CSF: £8.73. 4.10: 1. DON PEPE (K Fallon) 13-2: 2

Prima Silk 9-2; 3. bt. 1/2 / 2. A ran. 5-2 fav Rambot. 1/2 / 4. R Boss). Total £5.20: £1.50, £1.50, £1.20. DF: £13.10. CSP: £34.18. Theast: £136.48. 4.40: 1, TOPATORI (D Biggs) 11-4: 2. Moon Fairy 11-1: 3. Tithcar 11-4. 7 ran. 6-4 fav Sharowitted (4th). 7-1. (M Tomplons). Tota: £8.50; £1.60, £4.30. DF. £36.50, CSF: £28.41, After

5.10: 1. TOP JEM (G Bardwell) 7-2; 2. Check To Check 12-1: 3. Polear Princess 8-1. 9 mm. 9-4 fav Princess of Hearts (5th). Shr.hd. 7-4. (M Ryan), Totes £4.50; £1.50, £3.00, £2.70. DF. £38.80. CSF: £41.71 Tricast £289.96. Trio: £166.30. NR: Rock It Rosie. No 1D Rock It Rosie was withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 does not apply, no market formed. After a stewards' inquiry, the placings remained unal-

Placepot: £518.20. Quadpot: £70.50. Place 6: £120.72, Place 5: £30.63. Evening results, page 31



630-12 MCANIA [56] (8F) J Dunlop 9 7 ______ T Spraint 3
40612 HEART OF ARMOR (22) (8) P Cole 9 6 ______ C Router 2
2-23 HEART OF ARMOR (25) (8F) O Loder 9 5 ______ D R McCabe 1
043-44 PENN'S FROM HEAVEN (24) (8F) H Contry 9 2 ____ 7 Quinn 7
5-633 RISAL (26) A Stewart 9 1 ______ M Roberts 8
36-10 DAVOSRU (36) B Hills 9 1 ______ Paul Eddary 6
520-31 CRRO'S PENRL (29) M Tomplers 9 0 ______ M' Robert 5
2-2-241 DEMONOUS (46) Linis 9 0 ______ M' Robert 5 8 42-241 PROTOCOL (16) J His 9 0 Ringles 4
BETTING: 7-2 Protocol, 4-1. Righting, 9-2 Heart Of Armor, 6-1 Ratenile
Pennys From Hoswen, 7-1 Caro's Poort, 14-1 Irsal, 16-1 Demosti STALLS: STRIPH COURSE STRING SINCE FOURIE CHIEFF HERSE (EXPERLY ADVANTAGE: High best for 7f to 10f.

Right-hand course with sharp bends and gradients.

Recoourse is north of Chichester between A286 and A286.
Chichester railway station (London Victoria) is 4.5 miles away.

ADMISSION: Rechmond Enclosure £16; Gordon Enclosure £10
(over-65s £5), Public Enclosure £5 (over 66s £3). GAR PARKE 3.40 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS LIM-ITED STAKES (CLASS C) £7,500 added 52: free parking available.

2LINKERED FIRST TIME: None. 3YO 1m 1f winners in the last seven days: N LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Atlantic Desire (3.40) & Gloud Inspector (4.45) have been sent 265 miles by H Johnston from Middlehum, North Yorkshire. 1-04 SOPHOMORE (28) 8 HBs 8 12 22-146 GREEN JEWEL (5) R Hornon B 11_ 2.10 ROOKWOOD MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 1m 2f BETTING: 6-4 Henloy, 7-2 Alle ALARMEST R Chambon 9 0 8-1 Green Jawet, 10-1 Zimiri, 25-1 Rich in Love AZORES P Cole 9 0.. AZORES P COME 9 0 W Right Stories 9 0 W Right 4.10 ALBERT MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN 4 SONG OF FREEDOM (219) J G O TARKEN (16) K Suke 9 0 66-50 DUNDEL (22) 8 His 8 9 56 KHAWAFI (22) E DUNDE 8 9 EDOM (219) | Gosten 9 0 ... 04 KHALK (25) E Duniop 80 _D R McCabe 6-3 OFF THE RAILS (19) H Condy 8 9 336-0 OLIVO (1.6) C Horgan 90 30 REMARCO (1.0) P Cole 8 0 5 SWIFT SOVEREIGN (1.9) J Gosden 9 0 00-0 TOP OF THE GREEN (3.8) P Makin 90 9-2 Floreing Fortune, 5-1 Azores, 6-1 Dundel, 13-2 City Hall, stat, 15-2 Song Of Freedom, 8-1 Polesista, 10-1 Khawati, 20-1 - 7 decimed -BEXTING: 5-4 Gelmbriell, 7-2 Khalik, 5-1 Reward, 6-1 Monaco, 10-1 Oli-2.40 DARNLEY SELLING STAKES (CLASS E) 4.45 MORTAR MEL HANDICAP (CLASS D) 2:00/4 TRANSOM (USA) (22) (D) Min A Perrett 8:10 0T Quinn: 00445 CASTLE COURAGEOUS (5) (C) (D) Ludy Hence: 10:9 12

HYPERION 2.20 Patsy Culsyth 2.50 Winter Scout 3.20 Jedi Knight 3.50 Scarrots 4.20 Nervous Rex 4.55 Featherstone Lane 3.50 LONGHORN HARDWARE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,100 added 3YO 1m 4f GOING: Fant.

STALLS: Inside.

DEAW ADVANTAGR: High from 77 to 1m 4f.

DEAW ADVANTAGR: High from 77 to 1m 4f.

Right-hand, undulstring course. Run-in of 250yds.

Right-hand, undulstring course. Run-in of 250yds.

Tourse is on southern outskirts of town, 4m W of junction 42

of M6. Rus service from Cartisle station 2m. ADMISSION: Club
of M6. Rus service from Cartisle station 2m. ADMISSION: Club
S12 (OAPs & under-21s S9); Tattersells S6 (OAPs & under-21s
S13. CAR PARE: On rails S3 (including companies); remainder Processing Fig. 17 (1997); The Wrightone (4.20). Winners in the Last Seven Dats: Jedi Knight (3.20) WINNESS IN THE LAST SEVEN PROPERTY OF SEVEN PROPERTY OF SEARCH STATE OF SEARCH SEVEN PROPERTY OF SEARCH SEA Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True handstop weight: Minimum 7st 6th. BETTIMG: 11-4 Baby Jane, 3-1 Scarrots, 9-2 Shriitan Sovereign, 11-g/s Viole, Wildmoor, 8-1 Mingdom Pearl, 20-1 Cochin, 50-1 Mare 4.20 ENNERDALE RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 370 2.20 WASTWATER MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025 added 240 5f 5f 207vds 335.50 CHANGED TO BALLEYS (13) J Berry 9 0. COLONEL CUSTER C Tronton 9 0 _____ Dean McKerum 8
7 FLYING HIGH (SS) F Murity 9 0 _____ Fortune 3 (14 GLASS RIVER (10) P Brans 90 ON WAITHTSEE (19) M W Easterly AMERICAN CARL P Bure 8 9... AMORITON GRIL P Bers 8 9...

AMORITON GRIL P Bers 8 9...

CANON THIST (57) Rise Thompson 8 9...

CHICAPPARY (13) MS L State 8 9...

O4450 DARN PATROL (6) K HOSE 8 9...

PATRO CHICAPPARY (13) M JOHNSON 8 9...

THISTE TRANSPERS (15) J Bery 8 9...

10 declared - 10 decla plate, 7-1 Glast Rhyer, Danes stor, Flying High, Amington Girl, 25-1 others 2.50 BUTTERMERE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 5f 207yds 1 311054 SERISE OF PRIORITY (5) (CD) (EF) 0 Nicholis 8 9 1.

4.55 CRUMMOCK WATER APPRENTICE HAND-ICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 5f 00531 SUNSET HARBOUR (1) (2) 8 Kesteriol 4 8 12 (7ex) . 046005 THICK AS THIEVES (28) (D) Ron Thompson 5 8 4 ... 10 000005 MUARRIK (10) & Oktopi 9 7 10. CARLISLE GLASS HANDICAP (CLASS D) - 10 declared -

3.30 BALLYMACOLL STUD STAKES (LISTED) (CLASS A) £17,000 added 3YO 1m 2f Penalty Value £11,795 NEWBURY HYPERION 2.00 Starmaker 4.00 BLEWBURY HILL (nap) 2.30 Trans Island 4.30 Travelmate 3.00 Divina Luna 5.00 Cattoro 3.30 Calypso Grant GOING: Good to Firm. Penetrometer reading: 2.93. STAILS: Straight course – stands side; round course – inside DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f to 1m on straight course. DEAW ADVANTAGES; high for bit to im on straight course.

Left-hand course.

Course is south-east of town near A34. Railway station (service from London, Paddington) adjoins pourse. ADMISSION: Members 514 (Juniors 18-31 57); Tatteradis 58; Silver Ring 54 (OAFs bail price). Accompanied 17-year-olds or under free all enclosures. CAR PARIC: Prec; Southmend 52; Pienk area 54 per car plus 54 per person.

LEADING TRAINERS WITH EUNNIERS; P Chapple-Byant - 37 winners from 156 runs. BETTING: 11-4 Prison, 11-2 Marcolla, 13-2 Thurboyamor, 7-1 Squenk, 8-1 Colypso (krant, Duet Dancer, 19-1) The Formany Tree, Western Hour, 14-1 others 19-90; Surdonic 3 8 9 W Ryon 5-2 for 61 Cool) drawn (10) 1.0 ron FORM GUNDS: This race is resplenders with nice filles but pudging their respective ments is far from easy, with some of them, including PRENA, so lightly raced. She was a 29 May foal, so there is every chance of her progressing through the year and she fledde a pleasing respectative when second to Maid Of Camelot in the Luce States at Goodwood, where she was uss LEADING TRAINES WITH EMPIRES. Free area at per car plus at per person.

LEADING TRAINES WITH EMPIRES. F. Chapple-Byam - 37 wherein fron 156 runters gives a success ratio of 23.4% and a loss to a \$1 level stake of \$27.48; J Gooden - 31 R Charlton - 18 winters, 116 rumpers, 16.4%, +53.96. afted of Subsequent winner Keyboogle. That was a slow-turn, tactical affer but the own have done Priene good and she was the every winner of a Redear maden on her ■ LEADING JOCKETS: J Reid - 14 winners, 285 rides, 18.9%, +517.87; L Deutori - 40 winners, 217 rides, 18.4%, +562.28; T Quinn - 31 winners, 284 rides, 11.7%, +515.80; Pag Eddery - 31 winners, 278 rides, 11.2%, ≤128.24. will have done Prisna good and she was the easy winter of a Redder maden on her only start at two. The Favramery then, a well-related dalugater of Susee Dencer and also a May fool, justified favouritism in a 12-tunner Yamnouth moiden fast September, overcoming a stow start. She tooks a useful prospect. Squeak, by Selditi, won the Newmarket Challenge while last October and followed up in a minor event at Redder, coming from last to first to best Cybertechnology, who is a decent colt. Viscousakess Brave won twice in light last autum and ran third to Bedside Stary in a fusted race in Millan on her return. Maxiculla produced a telling lock to take a Kempton maden 12 days ago. Soft ground would be a worly for Apactic Star but Flamboyance and Western Hour are going the right way, Flamboyance lad until close to the winning post when second of five to Notsette at Ascot (Lm) in April. while Western Hour isnded a Salisbury medion a month age. Selections: PRENA day, LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Trailblazer (3.00) has been sent 237 miles by C Thornton from Middleham, North Yorkshire; Persian Payre (3.00) sent 223 miles by J Berry 2.00 ERF KENNETT MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2YO 6f Penalty Value £3,864 __S Droves 1 Dose O'Hell 9 FAIR GAME (Ms Dene Snowdery J Duniop 8 0 FREE (H R H Prince Faird Salman) P Cole 9 0... GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY (Abigail Limited) M Fetherston-Godley 9 0 ... NEWNIET (15) (Mise M C Freez) P Cundoli 9 0..... AMBORA LAY TOWN TO THE STATE OF CLUSTON OF CLUSTON OF CHARLES OF C DETTING: 4-3, Starmellur, 9-2 Determent, 13-2 Proc. 8-1 Machons, 10-1 Elekik, 12-1 Cu Charlie, Fair Game, Silver Stamel, 14-1 Chaste Manneuvre, Sadir, 18-1 others 1998: Ocean Ruige (USA) 2 8 8 J Ruid 6-4 fav (P Chopple-Hyam) drawn (S) 13 cm 1998: Ocean Roge (USA) 2 8 8 J Raid 6-4 fav P Cheppie-Hyam) thewn (8) 13 ran Power Cole's FREE, who is a Gone West half-brother to Oaks heroine Jet Sid Lady as well as to Dismissed, a stx-furiong witner as a Juvense, stands out as the selection. The Fally Rong ook Stammaters halls from the Peter Chappie-Hyam yard, which does well with its young stars here and he is closely related to some decant winners. Ed Dunlop's Machoose, the mount of Klaren Fallon, is a \$130,000 son of Diseas (darm from the family of Derzig). The Hamden Al Mektoum siles are siso aponted by John Dunlop's Elabilis, a son of Green Detact related to Stematin, May Hill Statics winner Mamilacian and a specify sort in Tahassun. Makin Design rides, while Simon Whitworth is on the owner's Dick Harn-trained Statin, who has speed in her pedigree. Richard Hermon's \$130,000 purchase Classics (Nanocumes, out of a dam who won sprints in America, needs watching. The John Gosden-trained Determent is a 180,000gres son of Warning out of useful 10-Auriong winner Detve. Selections FREE 2.30 KINGSCLERE CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS B) £10,000 added 270 6F Penalty Value £6,011. 3 LIDO (8) (87) (6 Reed) B Hills 9 0 2 TRANS ISLAND (12) IA Maclim Permentupi I Belding 9 CLERARONT CITY (Mass Flore Feeley) P Chapple-Hyern 8 eed Partnechipi & Meehan & 11 M Tel FORM CUEDE

TRANS ISLAND looks the pick of the two to have raced previously and the form of his twolength second to Cape Verth at Newmarket. 12 days ago is strong enough to suggest he will
take all the beating. Clarenoot City is 8 20,000ghs son of Royal Academy and Hurriswood
feached 33,000ghs at twol is a brother to inother, so they must be taped in mind. But Turnbleweed Hero, a half-brother to some good ones including Dec Staless winner and Beimost runner-up My Memoirs, could be the one to worry about. Lide was backed as if deleast
was out of the question in a Waywick auction event on his recent debut but could finish only
a five-and-a quarter-lengths timf to Tippitt Boy. While the race will have brought him on,
he will propably find hamself up against it against Trans Island. Selection: TRANS ISLAND 3.00 GEORGE SMITH MEMORIAL RATED HANDICAP (CLASS 8) £12,000 added 7f Penalty Value £7,394

DETTING 5-2 Dieten Lune, 4-1 Neuerost, 9-2 Porsian Fayre, 6-1 Alemain, 7-1 Traibigger, 9-1 Everglades, 14-1 Volley, 20-1 Desert Green 1904: Evergades 8 95 Pat Edday 9-2 (R Charlton) drawn (5) 8 ran FORM GUIDE Alternate has his first run since lutting off with 5 good such to Kuala Lipis in the Lincoln, but he has mose amoust excussively on fast gong, including at Royal Ascot last year when each of 31 in North Song's Britannia Handicare, so he will not waire the ground to become testing, Much depends on the volume of rain, but it is possible that Yudiny will be up against it, too, although the race in which she was last of 11 at Ety) last November freely softly was in Listed class and give had shaped well previously. The round-actioned NEUMEST is variable in terms of the ground and this consistent type, formerly with Nick Walker, is intersecting on his first start for Reg Alsahars. He did not figure in the Lincoln or victorist Cup, but was a close second at Brighton in between when sitempting to give in-form Barbason 23th. Lest asseon's three was all came over seven furtions and Neumest must be preferred. Dut was a cose second at original in jointeen must alterifying a give inform barbason to Everglades, who won this a year ego. He is another for whom rain could pose problems. Divisial lusse is consistent and cards out of lost September's Asout fifth to Fatefully with credit, but she was tapped for a finishing lock in that mile handloop, Pernian Payre, progressive lest year and third home on the unfavoured stands' sade in the Victoria Cup, is and to keep in mind. A subsequent second to Withpoint in a seven-furiong handloop at Doncester last month reads like deport form.

Solvection: NEDWEST

020-55 EVERGLADES (23) (CD) (Mrs. Stephen Lussient R Charton 9 9 7...

20000- DESERT GREEN (FRO (MARS P Jubert) R Hannon 8 9 3.

4.00 BUCKLEBURY MAIDEN STAKES (STRAIGHT) (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 7F Penalty Value £3,864 O4 BLEMBURY HELL (12) (Anthony Pye-Jesry) R Johnson Hougston 9 0 Pet Edit O-O DAYMUS REVENDE (25) (Asjor P G Pusnell) O Crepped 8 0 A CI O-FREE MAJOR (USA) (216) (Sheik) Mohammed 8 Hills 9 0 GASKN (John Williams Transport (Newport) List) J Neville 9 0.... HAUR (Maldourn Al Maldourn) E Durlop 9 0 HART WESTELLIN A RESIDENT E DURIND 9 U
HOW BUTKERE (E POPO T Flad 8 ()
JOSEOCKS (JESA) (*Pol Mellov) (Bailing 8 ()
ZURGARO (253) (Sheith Marven Al Maldurin) C Br
DUST (The Queen) Lord Hustington 8 8
MESCONDUCT (Mrs. Sheits White) 6 1. Moore 8 9
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MESCONDUCT (Mrs. Sheits Mrs. Sheits Mrs. Sheits Mr BETTBM: 9-4 Hajr, 4-1 Blambury HM, 5-1 Aroncics, 7-1 Pile Major, 8-1 Zingaro, 10-1 Dust, 16-Davids Revenge, Misconclect, Possible, 20-1 others FORM GIBDE

Ed Duniop's Reinbow Quest colt HAIR cost 250,000ghs as a yearling and is a half-broth
or to a listful of smart or useful horses, so he might web be of the right cellors for this
Bilewbury Hill is going the right wey judged on his malden-race fourth to Shaheen at Kemp
ton and he will have his turns, while File Mejor is one for the future, although he might
need a bit more time after numbing just once at two, finishing 22th of 20 to Hendering
fidige at Doncecter. Frankle Dector rides the Green Desert Bity Bust for Lord Huntington
so she is worth weithing. Jornocks cost \$47,000 as a feet and hea a speedy America. 4.30 FURLONG CLUB STAKES (HANDICAP) (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 1m 4f Penalty Value £3,669 5-2112 LITTLE ACORN (43) ON JEF) (Allegian Simplero) S.C. Williams 9.7.

5-25 SPARIMANICA (203) Resmonts Study J. Duritoy 9.4.

254 SPARIMAN ROYALE (203) (IC T Oling) C. Britain 9.9.

0-020 HIGHLY PRIZED (26) (J.C. Smith) I Boiling 9.0.

504-5 NORMANIC CONCRUSES (U.S.A.) (48) (Robin F. Study) I Beiling 8.12.

0-001 TRIVERIMANE (20) (Entro Biocylands (J. Fernánson 8.10.

21-000 SIMPRIMANE (20) (Humdan Al Maldoum) 8. Hills 8.5.

356-06 PALAEMON (10) (Miss. 8. Swell G. Bailing, 7.10.

356-06 PALAEMON (10) (Miss. 8. Swell G. Bailing, 7.10. — 8 decisered — engages, 7-4. Utile Acora, 15-2 Sports BETTRIC: 7-2 Palametets, 4-1 Travelscote, 5-1 Morano Conquest, 7-4. Utile Acora, 15-2 Sports Beggids, 6-1 Wangat, 9-1 Palamene, 10-1 Highly Press, Supreme Sound 1996: Temptress 3 8 8 S Sanders 12-1 (P Wileys) drawn (6) 10 stn There should be more to come from TRAVELMATE, who looked as if he might have got in lightly on his handloop debut at Notungham 20 days ago and duly landed a gamble, beating karakoon by three lengths in a field of 16. He has for more on his plate this time off a 7b higher mark, but he should still go well. Normana Conquest was a be beckeard on his reappearance in Regal Patrof's Bewerley handloop and this strong colk, who rounded off his requeste term with a fair fourth to Vortahire at Saksbury, can tigure today. Relevantsh, by Rembow Quest, has strong resonable from without looking fully wound up and must be held in fairly high regard to have contested the Glasgow Stales at York (fifth to Symonds Inn). It carried have been easy for the handlooper to assess Kingysi, who showed his first form when fourth to Green Power at Windsor (soft) tast time. The tail-swishing but consistent Little Acorn is difficult to rule out despite top weight.

Selection: TRAVELMATEPut Edday 3 ...Done O'Noll 7

5.00 LEVY BOARD APPRENTICE HANDICAP (STRAIGHT) (CLASS E) £4,900 added 1m Penalty Value £3,583

FORM GUIDE

SETTING: 9-2 Mr Rough, 15-2 Mag Perrot, 8-1 Noble Dune, Welklid Beach, 19-1 Scatimbury, Teories, 12-1 Albeidan Ulopia, Californ, Eurobex Boy, Talida, 14-1 Ambey Fort, 18-1 others 1996; Helios 8 8 10 A Wileian 5-1 (N Walker) drawn (5) 8 ran.

We need to go ell the way back to April less year to review Therhea's course and distance with in softening ground but the form has a solid laok with the recent winners Poter Prince and Carbonno being the ones who followed him across the line. Therhea rether lost his way after that and this season's affons do not lend great encouragement, but there are signs of Rod Malinan's seem finding some form. TATIKA is a likeable mare and she runs well for Gary Maligan. She was lifth in a 28-numer, soft-ground handleap here last October when Amber Fort work, with Cardiono in third. The revised weights give Tatila more of a chance and she stayed on well that day. King Parrot goes extre well when freeh and Lord Hurst-againn's consistent none-year-old has a depent chance if the going does not deteriorate. Descing Lawyer was a newer-nearer tith of 1.1 to Sellas Gate Boy at Lingleid (7f) less then and will need to improve a fair bit on that, while Yeal Viel Viel won twice last year but probably has enough weight. Extremox Boy never really threatened when firstifling in the myd-children behind Winsome Wooster here last month. He was not beaten far, though, and this consistent four-year-old is the type who runs well for an apprentice. Selection: TATIKA INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL: Brazilian defeat cannot mask the potential as coach counts up the plusses. Glenn Moore reports

Hoddle and England grow and prosper

as England coach ended just as Terry Venables debut season had, with defeat by Brazil. It was no disgrace, Brazil are the best around and. in the Parc des Princes on Tuesday night, there were times when England looked worthy opponents just as they had in the opening half at Wembley two

summers ago.

Venables' team progressed considerably over the following year and went on to be within a penalty kick of the European Championship final. Hoddle, in building on Venables' progress, has created a side of greater potential but he faces a harder task As well as the traditional European powers France '98 will have Brazil, probably Argentina. and the emerging force of Nige-ria. England will also be away. First, as Hoddle has always

been anxious to stress, England have to qualify. "We are talking as if we are already there," he cautioned as England's efforts were dissected.

In his 11 games (nine wins, defeats by Italy and Brazil) Hoddle has called up 45 players, capping 29 of them, five (David Beckham, Andy Hinchcliffe, David James, Nicky Butt and Paul Scholes) for the first time. Paul Ince and Gareth Southgate have appeared in 10 matches, no one has been ever-present. Darren Anderton, Steve Stone and Steve Howey have been unavailable almost all season and 11 of those he has picked were injured for the

Tournoi de France. In their absence others have seized their chance, notably Scholes, Phil Neville, Roh Lee and, to an extent, Ian Wright. The Liverpool pair of Steve McManaman and Robbie Fowler will be wondering if they will pay for their absence. Scholes and Phil Neville have

The England bench reflect on their only defeat in the Tournoi during the dying moments of Tuesday's 1-0 reverse against Brazil in Paris

turity while Phil Neville created and defended well playing in an unfamiliar wing-back position," Hoddle said, He added: "They have a great temperament and have adapted well to international football. Sol has heen, with Sol Campbell, the grown as a player and he will get

Gary Neville also did well, only looking uncomfortable when faced with Christophe Dugarry's height, while David Beckham continued his progress and will have tearned much in terms of play and be-

what a player he is until you do not have him," Hoddle said. "There is not a player like him anywhere. He can drive forward and he can defend. Everyone

England's recent five-match man underlined their quality period. "You do not realise while Paul Gascoigne showed signs of his. "I was pleased with him," Hoddle added. "There were signs he is getting back to his best. He is not yet 100 per cent fit and he needs three to haviour.

Then there was Ince, probahly the outstanding player of

has gone up a level but four injury-free months. He is he has progressed even more."

Alan Shearer and David Seastature at the right time."

Hoddle recognised that Eng-land have to improve on the ball defensively and will be concerned about the lack of cover for Ince - David Batty is very much a poor substitute - and the continued absence of a nat-

tember, qualification would be guaranteed by an October vic-tory in Rome. A draw ought to be good enough as the best-performing second-placed team of the nine groups. England may even manage that in defeat but it would require some bad

The bottom line is qualifying - and then trying to win it. I know that," Hoddle said. The job looked worse on the outside, when I was at Chelsea. It looked a hell of a difficult job. It is, hut I enjoy it and am taking a lot of pride in it. The ups Photograph: Michael Steele/Empics are very high and the downs very low. I have a good family behind me and that is the most impor-

is second in Scotland's group

tant thing. Winning in Poland was a great high, it may not be the best thing I've done - taking Swindon into the Premiership was a fantastic achievement at the time - but this is the nation. It means so much to so

The brilliant Brazilians still dancing to a different beat

this week about narrowing the gap between English and Brazilian football some of us re-called a remark passed by Alf Ramsey on his return from the 1970 World Cup finals in Mex-

Ramsey's rather clumsy assertion that he had learned little from Brazil's exhilarating triumph was ridiculed in some quarters but in fact he had hit e button. What he had in mind was a different philosophy and the unique rhythm of Brazilian football,

Considering that England's defeat by Brazil in Guadalajara was by the narrowest of margins and that Ramsey could call on such notables as Gordon Banks,

When Glenn Hoddle spoke little separated them from the greatest of world champions. However, Ramsey was right to conclude that the emberance of Brazil's foothall is beyond em-

A marked advancement in collective understanding over recent weeks has raised the pos-sibility that England will be a force if they qualify for the World Cup finals next summer. but matching Brazil's technical

The late João Saldanha, a left wing political activist in his youth, who was replaced by Mario Zagallo as Brazil's manager shortly before the 1970 hnals for refusing to co-operate with secret service men assigned to the squad, said: "Our



England may yet become a force in next year's World Cup but Ken Jones says Glenn Hoddle's team still have a long way to go to match the technical ability of the world champions

that you don't get anywhere else in the world. Other countries have produced great players, great teams, but we play to a dif-

subsequent merging of ethnic groups. Jose Werneck, who was widely respected in Brazil as a football pundit before moving to the United States, said, "I don't want to sound racist but the Afro-Brazilian footballers like the Afro-American athletes have a distinct advantage

Africa in the 19th century, the means of escaping disenfranchisement. Some of our finest players have been white, Gerson, Tostao, Dunga and now Juninho. But in the main they are black or of mixed origins. the mulattos."

As Werneck points out, Brazilian football differs from that played in other South American

in power. Pele was the best ex- countries. "People often make ample. He had tremendous the mistake of putting us together power in his thighs that enabled as a group as though there is a him to explode like a sprinter common style. It isn't so. For excoming out of the blocks. And, ample, Argentina still favour a It springs from history, the ar-val of black slaves from West as with poor people in other short passing style that was in-countries, football provides a fluenced by immigrants from Europe. Brazil play short and long. Didi and Gerson were marvellous passers through the air and you can see from the present team that Zagallo does not restrict the players in their options. And, as always, speed is a vital element."

Speaking after England's 1-0 loss to Brazil in Paris, the Aser come up against such quick-ness, Sol Campbell, who had an outstanding tournament, said: One moment they are there, the next they have gone. You have to concentrate all the expand on Brazil's victory in the

1994 finals, perhaps mellowing in his later years, Zagallo seems verve that has made Brazil's best football so compelling, what Pele called the beautiful game.

For a variety of reasons, political intrigue, economic crises and a misguided attempt to take European ideas on board (one of their coaches, Claudio Coutinho, an army officer and handball international stated admiration Hoddle to speak of getting

heritage was squandered fol-lowing the 1970 triumph. The appointment of Juninho's mentor. Tele Santana, almost brought about a return to old glories. But for the absence through injury of a marvellous centre-forward, Reinaldo, the

home in the 1982 finals. The speed with which Brazil closed England down in Paris spoke of Zagallo's concern over recent defensive lapses, his fear that virtuosity could be undermined by defensive shortcomings. If it all comes together next summer, look out. It's fine for



outstanding new talents

closer to Brazil hut a persistent thought is that they are still some way short of realising their full potential.

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Bosnich turns goalscorer for Australians

The Aston Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich relieved his boredom by scoring a late penalty as Australia opened their World Cup qualifying campaign with 13-0 rout of the Solomon Is-

lands vesterday. Bosnich, who barely touched the hall during the match. stepped up to complete the scoring with the last kick of an embarrassingly one-sided Ocea-nia group game, Strikers Damian Mori and John Aloisi had by

Midfielders Ernie Tapai and ternationals to his club. Craig Foster also found the scoresheet for Australia, who are hosting all the matches in their qualifying group, which also includes Tahiti. It was Australia's highest score in an Oceania World Cup match, eclipsing their 10-0 drubbing of Fiji in 1981.

Australia and New Zealand are expected to qualify from their respective qualifying groups and would then face cach other in an Oceania playoff over two legs in June and July. The winner will play an Asian opponent in a final twoleg qualifier later this year for a place in the 1998 World Cup in France.

Venables was cleared yes-terday of any potential conflict transfers of three Socceroo in-

Portsmouth. Venables' future as manager appeared to have been thrown into doubt because of his apparent involvement in Leicester keeper Zeljko Kalac. midfielder Robert Encs and utility player Hamilton Thorp. However, the Soccer Aus-

tralia chairman, David Hill, has revealed that under the conditions of his contract. Venables is permitted to pursue other interests, but could not become directly involved in the transfers. Hill said: "Terry Venables has done nothing that contra-

venes our rules or the contract

we entered into with him." Venables had sent videotapes of Sydney United's Kalac and Enes and West Adelaide's Thorp to the Portsmouth manager. Terry Fenwick, to study.

Portsmouth are believed to be tying up a move for the trio. with defender Matthew Bingley also having been targeted. tralia expressed their outrage that Venables was linked to the transfers, with draft letters of complaint filed to the Soccer Australia board alleging conflict

of interest. The clubs were citing the Stewart report, a 1994 document about alleged corruption in transfer dealings, particular-ly with regard to the impropriety of national coaches heing involved in any deals.

But Hill added: "When we negotiated his contract be asked if his interest in Portsmouth was a problem and we said 'no'. He is allowed to pursue outside

search for a manager to Milan's Arrigo Sacchi. The Goodison chairman, Peter Johnson, has made a discreet approach to the experienced coach, who took Italy to the World Cup final three years ago.

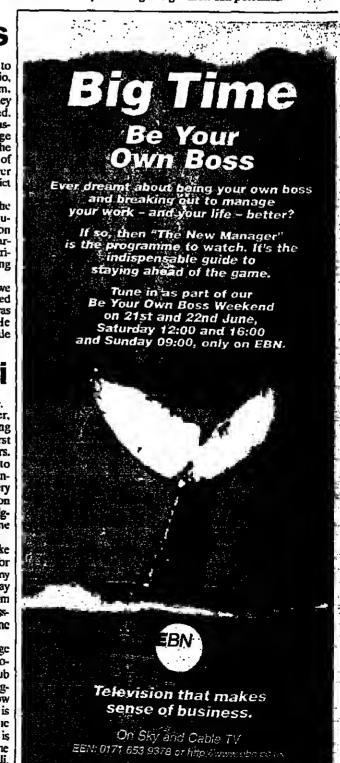
on his contract, has had a nightmare return to Milan this season and is expected to make way for Fahio Capello, who is leaving Real Madrid soon. The chance to move to Everton with millions to spend may appeal as his reputation is at an all-time low in Italy, where he walked out as the national manager to go back to Milan.

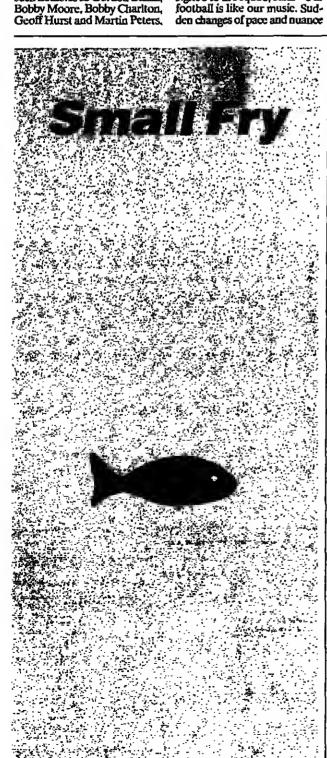
Johnson is coming under fire for his failure to replace Joe Royle. Bobby Robson has stalled about joining, George Graham will not quit Leeds, both Bryan Robson and Martin O'Neill shied away and a move for

Everton tempt Sacchi John Toshack was unpopular Blackhurn's new manager, Roy Hodgson, is making France's Patrick Valery his first signing for Blackburn Rovers. The Bastia right-back flew to Ewood Park yesterday for contract talks and a medical. Valery

> in charge at Internazionale. Graham is poised to make three major foreign signings for Leeds. The Dutch striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink arrives today to complete a £2m move from Boavista, days after his successful farewell appearance in the Portugese Cup limal.

Norway's midfielder Alf Inge Haland will also join Leeds today, leaving the Yorkshire club to sort out a fee with Nottingham Forest. And his fellow Norwegian Tore Pedersen is expected to arrive after the weekend. The centre-back is poised for a £1 m move from the relegated German side St Pauli.





then scored five goals each. The victory gave Terry Ven-ables his sixth win in as many matches since taking over as Australian national coach late last year. "We were particularly efficient and our attitude was very good," the former England coach said. "Even when we were several goals up, we didn't try to be of interest over the proposed too clever or take the mickey." Rangers keep Laudrup ADAM SZRETER ager, Alex Ferguson, especially as his attempt to sign the Bayern Munich defender Markus Brian Laudrup, the Danish in-Babbel is in doubt. Babbel ternational striker, has decided turned down United's first offer. to stay at Rangers at least unbut Babbel's Swiss lawyers told til the end of next season after two days of talks with his chairman. David Murray, at his summer home in Jersey. The 28-year-old striker's brother, Michael, was expected to join Ajax from the J-League club Kobe, and it was lit, the Chelsea manager, thought that if Michael was checked out his 30-year-old former Feyenoord team-mate heading for Amsterdam then Brian would team up with him

gether at club level.

his decision to stay.

United yesterday that the player will continue negotiations. Chelsea have signed the Dutch international goalkeeper Ed De Goey from Fevenoord for £2.25m on a five-year contract. Ruud Gul-

m South Africa last week when the Netherlands won a friendas they were keen to play toly international 2-0. "This is a dream move." said The fact that the Scottish champions have already spent De Gocy, who has won 29 inaround £10m on new players was believed to have influenced Ajax's new manager, the former Danish international Morten Olsen, who was confi-

ternational caps. "Several Dutch and Spanish clubs have shown an interest in me hut when I knew Roud wanted me there was only one club for mc
- Chelsea. The prospect of gether, will be disappointed, as will the Manchester United man-

Everton are switching their has had an outstanding season for the Corsican side, and Hodgson spotted him during his time Sacchi, who still has a year left

Busy Rusedski must raise game

Tennis

Dares and

for boom

F - LEAT CONTACT

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APERS

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JOHN ROBERTS reports from Queen's Club

You never know what to expect on grass. Goran Ivanisevic mused. A trio of Brits in the third round of the Stella Artois Championships, for example, one of whom, the 19-year-old Martin Lee, is due to face the whimsical Croat today.

Michael Chang knows what to expect on the sport's fastest surface, and in his case it does not amount to a lot. The world No 2, paying his first visit to the lawns of Queen's Chuh, was eliminated in his opening match by Scott Draper, the talented Australian left-hander.

Draper now plays Greg Rusedski, who will need to raise his game after surviving a nervous afternoon against Kevin Ullyett, a South African qualifier, ranked No 174. Then there is Tim Henman, the British No

nament at Edgbaston yesterday

with both Samantha Smith and

Lucie Ahl losing their second

Essex, was first to go, losing 7-6, 6-4 to third-seeded Lisa

Raymond of the United States,

the experience of Dominique

van Roost, the sixth seed,

proved too much and the Bel-

Smith went very close to

pulling off a surprise wheo she

had four set points in the first set

and led 4-2 in the second, but

Raymond, who reached the

fourth round of the French

Opeo, applied pressure at cru-

"Obviously I'm disappointed

cial times to clinch victory.

Ahl put up a strong fight but

round matches.

gian won 7-5, 6-2.

1, who must overcome the challenge of Jens Knippschild, of Germany, ranked No 105. Knippschild has advanced at the expense of one of last year's Wimbledon semi-finalists, Jason Sloltenberg, and the Frenchman Olivier Delaitre, who curtailed Henman's trip to the

French Open in round one. Rusedski, it must be admitted, did reach the third round here in 1994, but in those days he was still pounding his serves as a Canadian. Yesterday, he appeared to have squeodered his opportunity after failing to convert any of three match points at 5-4 in the third set.

Ullyett, having forced s tie-break, created two match points of his own. Rusedski served away the first, at 5-6, only to double-fault to present his opponent with another opportunity at 6-7. This time Rusedski salvaged the match with an emphatic backhand cross-court service return and clinched the

Raymond raises game to eliminate Smith British hopes came to an eod at the DFS Classic women's tourmore," Smith said. "When she

big serves in. I wasn't able to raise my game when I needed it." For Ahl it was the first expe-Smith, the British No 1 from rience of taking on a top-100 player. Van Roost was the world No 28 at the start of the week. The Devoo player was pleased to find that her level - around the 200 mark - was not too far

had chances she was able to put

away from the higher standard. "I didn't really know what to expect," she said. "I was pleased to go out there and compete with her."

It was also Ahl's first time competing in the main draw of a WTA Tour event. On Tuesday she woo her first-round match 6-4, 6-4 against Claire Taylor of Oxford. "It's great to get through the first round and with the result but she played great to play players like Van some unbelievable points and I Roost," she said. shoot-out, 9-7, on his fourth match point, 7-5, 4-6, 7-6.

To be fair, Rusedski had a husy day, having first completed his first-round match against Australia's Mark Woodforde, which had heen suspended overnight because of rain at one set all and 1-1. Rusedski completed the task, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Draper required five match points in defeating Chang, who fought back after losing the opening set and actually had a match point in the third set tiebreak. Draper saved it and was relieved to see Chang loop a forehand long at 6-7 to lose the match, 6-3, 2-6, 7-6.

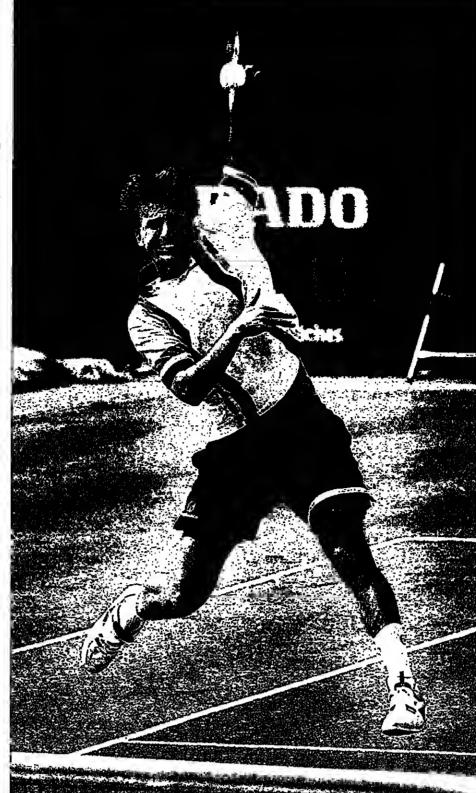
The question now is whether the three Brits cao emulate Chris Bailey (1989) and Jeremy Bates (1994), the ooly two home representatives to have sdvanced to the quarter-finals. Lee, who wears yellow and hlue outfits similar to the ones in

which Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten triumphed at the French Open, must hope to catch Ivanisevic on one of his more eccentric days. After defeating Leander Paes, of India, yesterday, 7-6, 6-3, Ivanisevic revealed that he

did not finally decide to play until an hour before the match because of a wrist injury. "I hope it doesn't get any worse," he said. His thoughts on playing Lee? "I know who he is, but I oever saw him play," Ivanisevic said.
"I don't talk about playing

British players. I lost to [Chris] Wilkinson here and to [Nick] Brown at Wimhledon." Not to mentioo saving a metch point against Chris Bailey with an ace on a second serve. Pete Sampras seemed pleased to set his feet oo grass after failing again to dominate on the clay of Paris. The world

No 1 defeated Javier Frana, of Argentina, 6-3, 6-2 in less than an hour, in his opening match. "It's like I oever left after last year." Sampras said. "I got used to the court and the balls oo Monday, wheo 1 played doubles [with Henman]. I'm happy with the way I played to-day, and I have oo complaints."



Goran Ivanisevic hits a smash at Queen's Club yesterday Photograph: David Ashdown

Australian morale faces a further test

GUY HODGSON reports from Trent Bridge

As Paul Reiffel joined the Australian party yesterday, they were hracing themselves for bad oews to offset his arrival. Andrew Bichel, who has bowled only five overs in England, is

likely to be ruled out of the tour. Bichel, a 26-year-old right-arm fast bowler from Queensland who injured his back in the nets before the first Test, had hoped to play in the current three-day game against Nottinghamshire here. He has not respooded to treatment, however, and, although further tests will be made today, the likelihood is that he will be seot home.

This, allied to Jason Gillespie's hamstring injury, is improving Reiffel's chances of making a team hoping to recover England at Edgbaston in the first Test. He has oot played a firstclass game since February but with Australia oot exactly spoilt for choice thanks to injury, the final pace bowling place will be between him and Brendon Ju-

Which has shades of 1993, when Reiffel got into the Australian team after Craig Mc-Dermott bruke down and proceeded to take 19 England wickets in three Tests. The irony. it was noted at the time, was that his movement off the pitch made him the most "English" bowler the tourists possessed.

Indeed Australia's captain, Mark Taylor, had estimated that Reiffel would be an important bowler on this tour, so it was a from the original party. "One of the selectors, Jim Higgs, rang me up and broke the ocws," Reiffel said. "He offered me some

encouragement but at the time I wasn't really taking in what he was saying. I was pretty upset so it wouldn't have mattered what he said, I had a few weeks off. thought about things and decided the only way back was to work hard was to have a good summer. It turns out I got back a bit quicker."

Reiffel's chance to impress here was denied yesterday when play was washed out. Which, given the oeed for the Australians

for practice, summed up their fate so far oo the tour. After Edgbastoo you would expect spirits to be down, although pear to deey that.

"The morale is very good," be said. "They're very professional and one loss is oot going to leave them in the dumps. They'll come back fighting."

John Emburey announced his retirement from first-class cricket at the age of 44. Northamptonshire's former England off-spinner took 1,608 wickets scored 12,021 runs and made 64 Test appearances in his career spanning 17 years, as well as numerous honours with Middlesex. He is to conceotrate oo coaching duties. He will, continue to play in one-day games.

Athletics

Basahali

The American owner hopes to touted Desert Lady ran on well to

Stark aims for repeat on Positive Rain

Equestrianism

Ian Stark is bidding to repeat last year's victory in the Bramham International Three-Day Event when he rides Positive Rain in this three-star

contest which begins today. The hig grey gelding is owned by Jonquil Hemming, who offered Stark the ride after mjuring herself in a fall at Punchestown in Ireland last mooth. She had previously ridden Positive Rain to victory in the national section of last year's Windsor Horse Trials.

Hemming delivered her horse to Stark's home in the

and the following day he rode Floors Castle Horse Trials, near Kelso. What is more, the victory was achieved with just 19 penalties in the dressage and oothing to add in either the cross-country or show jumping. Stark's opponents will in-

clude Karen Dixon (his teammate at three Olympic Games) on Too Smart and Pippa Funnell (who is hidding for her first place oo a senior British team) on Supreme Rock. Funnell is already long-listed with both Bits and Pieces and Designer Tramp for September's European Open Championships.

qualifying metch between Norwey and Switzerland last November. WORLD CUP Oceants Zone second round qualifiers: Group One (Sydney): Australia 13 Solomon Librards Q. Group Two (Justdand): New Zealand 7 Papus New Guines Q.

wiself: Angestan 2 Syns 1; Iran 2 Maidwes Group Nine (Labore): Pekstan 0 Kateldesan

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHANPIONSHIP Qual-lying Group Eight (Hefnerfjorder): (cetard O Lithuanta 2.

RUSSIAN CUP (Moncow): Lokomotiv Mosi 2 Dynamo Moncow O.

TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: la Tournol de Frimore England D Brash 1 (Nominio 61); Portugiana Cup Final: Bertica 2 (Calado 34, Pindo Sousa og 59) Bouvista 3 (Sancher 7, pen 58, Gornes 28), Danich Langue Play-offs Group 8: Co Ahead Engles Dovertor 3 Cambuur Lecunardon 2.

Owen (Liverpoot).
SCOTTISH LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP Firstround draw: Starage v Advocit; Inventos Cale
donan Trasie v Queen of the South; Hamilton
v Panick; Stifring v Aloc; Durchstron v Fellori,
Sternhousemur v Livergator; Bernach v Montrose;
Greenock Morton v Albant, Andrew Durcher; Fortar v Box String; East File v St Marten; Apr v
Queen's Paric Cowdenbeeth v Cydebanic Chyde
v Rolth Byer; Rous Courty v Brethin. Ther to be
played 12 and 13 August.

HOCKERY
ENGLAND SQUAD (Sh. Nations Townement, Secol, 25 June to 5 July); M Daves (copt), J Shamith, H Rose (both Sutton Coldheid, K Brown, M Nichols, J Smith, 1 Copeland (all Slough), A Bowden, C Voss, J Mould, P Miller (both Leicester), T Cullen, C Red (both Hightown), J Empson (Carlestury), L Weight (Oidton), O Mariston-Smith (both Cirton).

Sprinter ready to retire after financial snub

Athletics

Phylis Smith, the Wolverhampton-based 400 metres runner, has hinted she is ready to retire from the sport in a dispute over the size of a cash grant.

Smith is pulling out of Britain's European Cup team after being allocated just £2,000 from the sport's lottery funds. She said: "It is a terrible slap in the face. Malcolm Arnold, the director of coaching, told me that if I wanted more I would have to get in the top 10 in the world. It seems that it wasn't enough to set a British indoor record this winter."

Smith, 31, competed in the Barcelona and Atlanta Olympics and reached the final of the 400m in Spain five years ago. She has been named in the 4 x 400m relay team for cext week's European Cup in Munich hut is now seriously considering retirement. She added: "At the moment 1 am determined to retire."

American athletics officials have suspended Mary Slaney, making her ineligible for the national championships which began in Indianapolis yesterday, an athletics source said. The source said a USA Track and Field board had suspended the runner on Tuesday night. A USATF spokesman, Pete Cava. declined to comment.

Slaney's husband, Richard, said the couple had not been "personally" notified. "If that's what they have done, she will not come to Indianapolis. Why should she? To do what? Richard Slaney said from the couple's home to Eugene, Oregon. He would not comment on whether Slaney would seek arbitration or a court order in the case.

The decisioo to suspend Slaney was based on a review by the US board of her drug test at last summer's US Olympic trials, the source said. Slaney's test showed a higher than acceptable ratio of testosterone to epitestosterone. Any ratio higher than 6-I is considered suspicious by the International Amateur Athletic Federation and the athlete can be suspended.

Slaney has consistently denied taking any substance banned by the IAAF, but the IAAF's general secretary, Istvan Gyulai, said on Tuesday: "There is a very clear indication that this [Slaney] is a doping case."

The IAAF suspended Slaney and her fellow Americans Sandra Farmer-Patrick and Stephuo Flenoy almosi two weeks ago pending the outcome of their US hearings.

Insults and Vegas help Rodman relax

Basketball

When the Utah Jazz made it to the NBA finals, Dennis Rodman must have groaned. The wild man of the Chicago Bulls knew he faced long nights in Salt Lake City if the seven-game series weot any distance and the home of the Mormons is not the place to find an all-night bodypiercing salon.

Sure enough a spotless, religioo-driven town proved too much for a cross-dressing exhibitionist like Rodman, who decided to go over the state line to Nevada for a little relaxation in Las Vegas, hut only after likening Utah's population to sphincter muscles and telling the edia to be sure to quote him.

With ooc of the most important sporting events in America tied at 2-2, the buildup to yesterday's third game in Salt Lake City was dominated by Rodman. He responded to Jordan gets away on a golf criticism from the Anu-Defamatioo League by more or doesn't play golf." less repeating his insulting remarks and adding that he would not have made similar comments about Jews.

So far the Bulls, who suspended him earlier this seasoo for swearing on television, have kept quiet, as has the Mormoo Church. The NBA, aware that

player defaming an entire religious movement, has reacted tentatively so far.

"If that's what he said, it's indefensible. We will be dealing with Dennis after the finals are concluded," said a spokesman for the association, which banned him for 11 games earlier in the seasoo after he kicked a cameraman in the groin.

Rodman has yet to score since the series moved to the home of the Jazz almost a week ago, a poor return for a player paid \$9m (£5.6m) a year to put points on the board.

The Bulls coach, Phil Jackson, said he had not "endorsed" Rodman's trips to Sin City, but did not coodemn him. "I didn't endorse where he weot," he said. "Dennis is the kind of person that needs to blow off some steam and I imagine he got it done."

For Jerry Krause, the Bulls' general manager, it was just one more way to unwind. "Michael he said. Denois course.

Rodman, sporting a red, yellow and green haircut, spent Sunday and Monday nights whooping it up in Vegas with his rock star friends. "I went and had a good time," he said. "I got rid of this bad taste in my mouth. I'm oot married. I don't have to eotertain a family, so I wanted to there is no precedent for a get the hell out and relax."

Rugby League

PENDEN Shaun Edwards is out of the London Broncos team to play in Canberra on Sunday, thus denying the opposing loose forward, Bradley Clyde, the chance for what Australians would call a "get-even", writes Dave Hadfield. RY RECYCLING

Edwards was sent off for a high tackle on Clyde during the Test at Wembley in 1994 and Clyde - no doubt with stirring Walker battles through to take on Martin

Chris Walker, the England No 1,

celebrated his 30th birthday by

beating Tun Garner 12-15, 15-5,

8-15, 15-8, 15-12 at the Al Ahram

International Championships in

Walker, seeded sixth, fell be-

hind 2-I in games before he

woke up to the danger posed by

Clyde misses 'get even' chance on Edwards

Walker apparently cruising to victory at 12-8 in the fifth game, on the illuminated transparent

Walker next meets Brett Mar- 15-13, 15-3, 15-4 in 35 minutes.

RACING RESULTS

match in mind - had expressed a wish to "have a shot" in return. He will not now have the chance, because a hamstring in-

jury, which forced Edwards off the field at Brisbane and arguably cost London the match last Friday, has not improved sufficiently. That means that Josh White will partner Tulseo Tollett at half-back.

he lost four rallies in a row as

A conduct warning for Garner

seemed to throw him out of his

stride. He said: "I have never had

a conduct warning in my life be-

fore. I was just querying a strange

no-let decision when this came

completely out of the blue."

Garner fought back again.

up interest in this weekend's has made two changes for tomorrow's game in Adelaide. Francis Cummins moves to centre for the injured Richie Blackmore, with Leroy Rivett coming in on the wing. Terry Newton will be on the bench, along with Graham Holroyd, whose reported link to Richmond is a

mystery to the club.
"We know absolutely nothing about it," said the Leeds chief The Leeds coach, Dean Bell, executive, Gary Hetherington.

court beceath the Pyramids.

Paul Johnson will meet the

world No I, Pakistan's Jansher

Khan, in tomorrow's second

round after he defeated the

Canadian Graham Ryding 7-15,

15-9, 14-15, 15-9, 15-6. Also in

the first round. Simon Parke de-

feated Pakistao's Zarak Jahan

SPORTING DIGEST Athlertics

SLOVNAFT INTERNATIONAL MEETING (Bratishava, Tuesday): More: 1,00m; 1 a Ogaringer (Mayang 10,24m; 20 Okamas 10,27, 400m; 1 internet (SB) 45,02; 2 O Kampas 1,027, 400m; 1 internet (SB) 45,02; 2 O Kampas 1,027, 400m; 1 internet (SB) 45,02; 0 Okam; 1 S Kipton (Ken) 1,7m; 46,55ee; 2 L (Rojecoch (Ken) 1,45,44; 2 V Malainaen (Ken) 1,45,45, 1500m; 1 O Koman (Ken) 3,31,28; 2 J Noagal (Ken) 2,34,02; 3 R Najager (Den) 3,34,82; 8,500m; 1 T Nyariki (Ken) 12,56,66; 2 P Book (Ken) 1,210,99; 3 R Derrararki (GB) 1,324,39, 110m burdless; 1 E Batter (Outba) 1,3,48; 2 I Kover (Sbooks) 1,3,49; 3 T Jacrets (Zam) 48,81; 2 S Olgens (Fr) 48,90; 3 R Mashchanko (Rus) 49,07; Migh Junap; 1 a Knyasin (Rus) 2,28m; 2,28m; 2,4 M Turban (SB) 1,7,35; 3 K Nashchanko (Rus) 49,07; Migh Junap; 1 a Knyasin (Rus) 2,28m; 2,28m; 2,4 M Turban (SB) 1,7,35; 3 L Santa (Chub) 16,95; Discass: 1 L Redois (Gen) 65,40m; 2 V Alairus (Lih) 65,30; 3 V Kaspulin (Bale) 63,44; Womens: 200m; 1 V Fohenico (Lik) 22,89se; 2 F Ogurloye (Nigens) 92,294; 3 P Davs (Bah) 22,03; 3 Olom burdless: 1 A Knoroc (Rus) 55,38; 2 J Souchers (Puni) 55,45; 3 L Hondon (Bus) 1,200; 3 (Derrarop (Rus) 1,200; 3 L Manados (Br) 1,200; 3 (Derrarop (Rus) 1,200; 3 L Manados (Br) 1,200; 3 (Derrarop (Rus) 1,200; 3 L Manados (Br) 1,200; 3 (Derrarop (Rus) 1,200; 3 L Manados (Br) 1,200; 3 (Derrarop (Rus) 1,200; 3 L Manados (Br) 1,200; 3 (Derrarop (Rus) 1,200; 3 L Manados (Br) 1,200; 3 (Derrarop (Rus) 1,200; 3 L Manados (Br) 1,200; 3 (Derrarop (Rus) 1,200; 3 L Manados (Br) 1,200; 3 (Derrarop (Rus) 1,200; 3 L Manados (Br) 1,200; 3 (Derrarop (Rus) 1,200; 3 L Manados (Br) 1,200; 3 (Derrarop (Rus) 1,200; **Basketball**

BY STATE CAPIENT CHAMPION SHIP Fl-and round (Hungary): Group A (Za-langerszeg): Germany 85 Cach Republic 65; Spain 85 Hugeland 11. Georg 2 (Prode Hun-gary 73 Slovalda 54; Boania 27 Italy 79.

Steve Collins will make the seventh de-fence of his World Boding Organisation super-middleweight title against Amersuper-middleweight title against America's Anwar Oshana at Glasgow's Kelvin Hall on 5 July. Chicago's Oshana has an unbeaten record of 16 wins with 10 inside the distance.

Inside the distance.

Luton's Billy Schwer will have to travel to Spein for his overdue European lightweight title challenge against Occar Garcia Cano. The Spenish promoters have won the bidding and will stage the fight in late July or early August possibly in late July or early August possibly in in late July or early August possibly in Marbella, although the venue has yet to be finalised.

Cricket

Football

Akram Khan and Aminul Islam Butbul have been retained as capitaln and vice-capitain of the Bangladesh team for the sixth Asia Cup, scheduled to begin 14 July in Sri Lanks.

Durham retained the Costcutter Cup on the toss of a coin when heavy rain ruled out any hope of play in their 55-over final against Gloucestershire at Harro-

TITIBLE SIGNOCESTERS AT HER TO-gate.
TOUR MATCH (St. John's, Antigon) Flesh day of three Sri Lanks 192 for 8 dec and 398 for 4 dec (R P Ampld 158, M S Aspattle 118); Leveard Islands 148 and 128 for 0 U. Metchum 50no, A Adam's 68no). Metch drawn. SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Assessoriord: Garnogan 183 (R D Bages 5-58); Noting-lenssing 28 for C. Fecharepataset Hampshire 314 (M Garavey 136); Northamptonshire 72 for 1. No play yestarday; Yorkshire v Sustex (rain).

Derby County have given a free trans-

Steve Buil, who has scored nearly 300

The Spanish referee Manuel Diaz Vega was cleared of any wrongdoing in the face of bribery allegations in a World Cup

contract with the club tomorrow

TODAY'S NUMBER

war that Brazil have won the Copa America, South America's football championship in 1949 and 1989. Since the competition was instituted in 1910, the current world champions have won it only four times.

The number of times since the

Pools dividends

ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24pts £1,949.45, 23 £100.05, 22 £1.75, 21 £1.60. ZE E100.05, 22 E1.75, 21 E1.60.
UTILEMO005: Treble channe: 24pts
522.461.70, 23 E2.348.85, 22 E28.35, 21.
E25.00. Heal-drive: 21 pts. E747.40.4 decide
E35.75, 10 homes E10.60. 6 aways E23.00.
BRITTERS: Treble chance: 24pts E1.32.78,
23 E67.84.22 E1.65. Four draws: 57.15. Eight
homes: £1.60. Six aways £4.00.
VERNORUS: Treble chance: 24uss 59.0m.00.

Rugby Union

Squash

SQUERS'S

AL ARRAM INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
(Cairo) Mea's first round: Junetus (Run (Pold)
is J Boresta (Ru 15-4 27-16 15-10; P Johnson
(Eng) to E Ryding (Carl 7-15 15-9 14-15 15-9
15-6; S Parice Grigh to Z Jahan (Palu 15-13 15-3
18-4; A Wagh (Eg) to M Carm (Eg) 15-13 15-3
18-4; A Wagh (Eg) to M Carm (Eg) 15-13 15-3
18-4; C Walter (Eg) to T Carner (Eg) 15-14-15-6
18-14; A Gough (Was) to T Carner (Eg) 12-15
18-6-15 15-8 15-12; A Hortin (Van) to D
Borolossy (Eg) 15-12 10-15 9-16 17-15 15-9;
J White (Aus) to II Ryen (Ru) 15-17 15-14-1519-16-17 15-12; O Herra (Eg) to M Moral (Eg)
15-3 12-16 15-7 15-9; Z Jahan (Pale) to M Heesh
Son 6-15-7:16 15-7 15-0 15-12; P Nacol Soco)
It O Events (Wag) 15-13 15-7 15-7; P Mandred
(Eg) to S Castelyon (Be) 15-9 15-10 15-8;
O Jenson (Aus) to A Shohara (Eg) 5-12 15-8;
15-11 15-12 15-12.

SWINDINGS
SCOTTISS HANDAL CHARPTONSHE'S (Ginegow): Mace 50m buttarfly: 1.1 Hadman (GB)
25.57, 2.C Black (Advosoft) 26.18, 3.G Wither (Bango) 26.19, 100m finestyle: 1.G Maceluss (GB) 52.28csc: 2.F Dunion (String
Studental 55.51; al. Saber (GBB) 52.52, 200m
broads-stroke: 3.R Maden (GB) 2min:21.15ccc:
2.A Turner (GB) 224.85; 3.C Staw (Estrough)
2.27.85, 200m medisy: 1.1 Helenan (GB)
2.00.67; 2. Turner 200.94; 3.E Clement (GB)
2.09.65.

Wicheste: 50th buttherfly: 1. C Foot (GB) 28.39; 2 K Martin (Suring Students) 29.08; 3 D Hinsley (Bradibrd) 29.88; 200th throughyle: 1 K Pictering (GBR) 67.23; 2 C Huddert (GB) 57.54; 3 A Sneppord (Ningste & Bensster) 57.74; 200th breast-stroke: 1 S Robertson (Heyside) 2-46.13; 3 C Bruce (Aberdeen) 2-48.59; 200th anadisy; 1 S Robh GBI 2-22.69; 2 S Nesbit (GB) 2-23.51; 3 K Orr (Edriburgh) 2-24.65; 200th freesityle raisy; 1 Ethinungh 5-54.54sec; 2 REN 65 9:00.06; 3 Aberdeen 9:14.54.

Table tennis

Wolverhampton will be without Helen Lower snd Jill Hams when they defend the Rose Bowl, the Ladies Inter-league Champlonship of England, in this year's table tennis final in Maidenhead this

Tennis DES CLASSIC WOMEN'S TOU

DES CLASSIC WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Edgheston) Singles, second round (88 or 1rl unices stateof): L Raymond (US) bt S Smith 7-6 6-4; N Arganz (US) bt S Richoros (12 Rep) 6-3 3-6 6-3; El Van Roost (Bell bt L Ani 7-5 6-2; S Cooc (US) bt C Calleros (Bell bt L Ani 7-5 6-2; S Cooc (US) bt C Calleros (Gel) 6-3 7-6; L Cotarsos (fib bt T Tarresugem (Tha) 6-3 6-4; K Runcs (Aus) bt W Probat (Ger) 6-2 6-1; C Torrans-Vallero (Sp) bt A Fusal (Fr) 6-3 6-2; N Overneus (Neigh) bt M Serna (Sp) 6-2 6-0; D Barbbrrothilous (Belat) bt O Chladkova (C; Rep) 7-6 4-6 9-T.

STELLA ARTOIS TOURNAMENT (Queen's Club, London) Men's singles, second round: G Russiski (GB) bt M Woodforte (Aus) 4-6 6-4 6-3; P Refter (Aus) bt S Larenu (Cen) 6-3 T-5; Refter (Aus.) bt S Lareeu (Can) 6-3 T-5; A (Zm) bt 7 Woodbridge (Aus.) 6-0 3-6 S Black (Zim) bt 7 Woodbridge (Aus) 6-0 3-6 6-3; P Sempres (US) bt J Frams (Arg) 6-3 6-2; G Manissele (Cros) bt I Paes (167) 7-8 6-3; B Steven (MZ) bt D Nestor (Can) 6-4 6-4; S Siman (Fr) bt I Flech (Car) 6-7 6-4 6-2; S Desper (Aus) bt M Chang (US) 6-3 2-8 7-6. SEEMAN GRASS-COURT TOURNAMENT (Malle) Mont's angles, second round: B Beck-er (Set) bt T Haas (Ger) 6-4 6-4; T Muster (Aut) bt N Kuth (Swe) 6-2 6-3; P Korde (Cz Rep) bt N Escude (Fr) 6-3 6-3.

Garner, the England No 11, but NEWMARKET

Cairo yesterday.

6.40: 1 TRANSMEU (Qurn) 11-2; 2 Place Creek 7-2; 3. Polyphony 3-1 tax. 6 ran. 2, 9. (M. Stanshard). Total: £12.60; £3.50, £2.30. Dual Forecast. £38,30. Computer

HAMETON

7.00: 1. SQUINE CORRIE (Miss R Clark)
20-1; 2. Natural Key 6-1; 3. Insider Trader 11-1; 4. Nigher Westcound 33-1. 17 res.
4-1 fev Tropical Basch. 2. 1. (0 Chapmen).
70te: £22.00; £4.80. £1.40, £2.10, £3.90.
DF: £68.30. CSF: £109.41. Tricatt
£1.326.75. Ther £206.30. £1.326,75. Trio: £206.30.

UTTOXETER 6.50r 1. BECK AND CALL (7 / Murphy) 9-4 g fay; 2. Eithe Governor 10-1; 3. Not Mission 9-4 g fay. 10 rat. 2. 2½. (Miss Venetia Valents). Toks. 12.80; 51.10, 51.40, 51.50. Duel Forecast £9.30. CSF: £22.S7. Thor

■ Ian Balding was all smiles at Salisbury yesterday after Mr Sponge gave loyal patron Paul Mellon, s. Balding, won the Derby.

90th birthday present with success in the Fonthill Stud & Summerdown Stables Maiden Stakes. That gives me immense pleasure as it meant a lot to us," Balding said. "Hopefully Mr Mellon will have been watching the race on SIS

at his Virginia base in the States. "As owners come and go, he's incredible. I am the third generation to train for him and hopefully he will be around long enough for my son Andrew to make it four in a few years' time," added the Kingsclere trainer, a director at the

Wilishire course. Mellon, whose first racehorse was chaser Drinmore Lad in 1935, had his most famous moment m 1971 when Mill Recf, trained by

visit these shores for a month in July if his doctors allow him to travel, and doubtless Balding will ensure his colours are carried to victory during that time. Frankie Detion always had Mr Sponge well placed before sending the colt to the front at halfway and lengthening five lengths clear of Khaffaaq. Dettori had earlier initiated a double when Luca Cumani's Winter Garden, seot off s hot 2-7 favourite, had to pull out all the stops to thwart newcomer Tycooness for the Bishopstone Conditions Stakes. "He was always going well for me but he's still a hit of a baby and you have to get at him as he only does as much as he

take the Whiteparish Novice Fillies Stakes for Roger Charlton in the hands of Tim Sprake at the expense of Universal Lady. Barranak found underfoot conditions to his liking after overnight rain in the Amber Trust Handicap and duly took the race, beating Lucky Dip by two lengths. The Bollinger Champagne Challenge Series Handicap (For Gentleman Amateur Riders) went to Silver Lining who prospered from a good ride from Jamie Goldstein, winning his first-ever Flat race. Chris Rutter, successful earlier aboard Barranak, doubled up when bringing Lomberto with a late dash to lift the 10-furlong Barford St Martin wants to," Dettori said. The well- Limited Stakes.

Bassehall
Ascrecan LEAGUE: Cleveland 5 Mirraukae
4: Detrot 6 Oakland 4: New York Yankees 12
Chicago White Sox 1; Toronto 5 Seattle 3; Arahern 6 (repress Cry 2; Murraesta 10 Taxis 1;
Baltimore 7 Bosson 2 (first garne) Baltimore 4
Bosson 2 (second garne).

MATIONAL LEAGUE: Flonda 9 San Francisco
O; Cochmets 6 Pittsburgh 5; Montreal 5
Philadelphie 5; New York Mets 10 Chicago Cubs
G; Atlanta 6 Colorado 3; Houston 6 Los Angales 3; San Diego 6 St Louis 5 (12 avrings).

Cycling DAIPHNE LIBERE SACE Third stage (2000m., from Le Pay to Beaumer-de-Ventee, Fr) Leeding positions: 1.0 Abduthapser (Ital) Lotto Str 28min (58ser; 2 6 Londeard (It) Telestore; 3 0 Nazon (Fr) Februare des Jeur, 4 P Gaument (Fr) Codes; 5 A Bast (Ir) LiS Pessor; 5 G Fasser (Caru Mutuale de Seme-et-Alame; 7 N. Jashbort (Fr) Codes; 5 F Moncasson (Fr) GAN; 9 1. Brochard Fr) Februar; 10.1 Noers (Wath) Rabbart at same time. Overalt: 1 V Yelemov (Rus) US Postal 1 Gir 3min Baser; 2 A Zille (Swir) ONCE + 12see; 3 A Cleno (Spi Baresto 15sec; 4 Brochard + 17; 5 M Boogerd (Neth) Rabobaria; +20; 5 C Moreau (Fr) Festro) 20; 7 R Meier (Swir) US Postal 22; 2 P Meiner (Den) US Postal 24; 9 P Charteur (Fr) Caseno 26; 30 D Baranovelis (Po) US Postal 27.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

TETLEMENT, ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMP-IONSHIP (Piret day of four, 11.0 centees stat-ad): Glamorgan v Muddieses (at Caratti); Gloucesershev v Moossershev (at Bisto); Hamp-shre v Somerset (at Basingstolie); Lancashwe v Ment (at Old Trafford); Surrey v Yorkshire (at the Oalf; Sussey Vesset (12.0, at Hose); Warneleshire v Derbyshire (at Edghaston). TELLEY'S CHALLENCE SUPPES (Second day of theme, 11.0; Normstrandshire v Australia for Treet

Speedway PREMIER LEAGUE: Sheffield v Hurl (7.45). Other sports

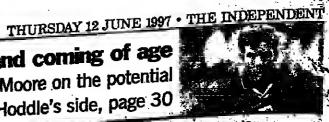
BQUESTRIANISM: Bramham three-day event. (Mestherby, West Yorks).
GOLP: British Women's Ammeur Chempionship (Cruden Bay, Aberdeen). tutucen say, Aperoent,
SWEEDING: Scottach National Chempionships
(Gasglow),
TENRES: State Artois man's (ournament (Queens
Cub, London); DIPS Classic women's tournament
(Edebaston)



* THE INDEPENDENT

COUNTY **ROUND UP**

0891 525 075 Cally cost Stip per minute at all farge. A product of Till Let.



Hammam sells up without moving out



Hammam: Still 'in complete

PHIL SHAW

When Sam Hammam is doing the selling.

Hammam, the Lebanese done for two decades. owner of Wimbledon, confirmed yesterday that be was relinthat the new investors would probably bankroll the building of a stadium in south-west London.

Yet within bours of appearing to step out of the front line.

Oslo-based fishing magnate, Kjell Inge Roekke, and his business partner, Bjorn Rune Gjelsten, had agreed to leave Q: When is the buy-out of a football club not a buy-out? A: "key decisions". He would carry on as managing director and run Wimbledon much as he had

The football world has come quishing his majority shareholding in the Premiership club
to two Norwegian businessmen

and he intimated

Wimbledon and mannau.

Gang spirit, he claimed he chose Roekke and Gjelsten to expect the unexpected from precisely because they understood the unique nature and traditions of the club

The Norwegians, who lost out to the Caspian Group in an attempted takeover of Leeds

their friendship at school. Roekke dropped out and began working on a fishing boat, eventually saving enough money to buy first a boat and eventually one of the world's biggest fleets; Gjelsten went on to complete

a business degree in Colorado. Pooling Roekke's entrepreneurial flair and Gjelsten's fi-nancial nous, the pair took over one of Scandinavia's leading holding companies before forming the Aker RGI ASA group in 1982. They also hold the controlling interest in Molde, who developed Ole Gunnar Solskjaer before transferring him to Manchester United, and have already intimated that the Nor-

wegian club could be used to develop players for Wimbledon. sten were not actually taking velop players for Wimbledon. "I'm not selling out. I'll velop players for Wimbledon. For Hammam, who has failed

to persuade Merton council to pay for a new ground since the chib vacated Plough Lane for a ground-share at Crystal Palace, the deal offers the prospect of Wimbledon returning to their spiritual home, "We have no def-inite plans," he admitted, "All we know is that we probably will move. Selhurst Park is a good stadium, but if we want to be among the biggest then we need our own ground."

Amid a maelstrom of metaphors, Hammam insisted that Rockke (whom he likened to Clark Kent: "No one knows that he is Superman") and Gjel-

be in complete charge of all key decisions. I am the steering wheel. My foot is on the accelerator and the brake.

"All we have at this stage is an edgagement to get married, and it will be at least a few months before the marriage is consummated. I'll be delighted to call them my partners in the future, but we're not looking at them as sugar daddies."

Seemingly contradicting himself, he added: "Money is available, though it's embarrassing to say how much. The only thing that matters is that it's profitable to Wimhledon.

"The way I see football go-

ing is that you need to have a lot of money to survive. If we want to continue to progress then we need these people. We need to be ready for things like pay-per-view and the European League, which will be here in a few years.

Hammam, who said he had picked the pair after talking to some of the most influential people in the world", also spoke of making Wimbledon "one of the biggest clubs in Europe". But alluding to Fabrizio Ravanelli's reputed earnings at Middles-brough, he warned: "We'll still do things the Wimbledon way. There I be no figures of £42,000-

a-week at this club." The deal marks another re-

markable chapter in the story of the club who began life 108 years ago as Old Centrals FC. playing in the shadow of the windmill on Wimbleden Common. Initially members of the Clapham League, they might never have turned professional but for Clacton's withdrawal creating a vacancy in the Southern League 34 years ago

Wimbledon went on to replace / Workington in the Fourth Division in 1977, reaching what is now the Premiership within nin years and winning the FA Cup in 1988. Now, having established themselves among the big fish in playing terms, they appear to have landed the financial cloud to move into uncharted waters

Bentley try puts Lions in fast lane

Rugby Union CHRIS HEWETT

reports from Johannesburg



John Bentley, his Test place in jeopardy after a flawed performance ln Pretoria last weekend, scored one of

the great individ-ual tries in Lions history at Ellis Park last night to give the tourists their first victory over a Super 12 Province.

The former rugby league wing left five Gauteng tacklers for dead, and coming as it did just seven minutes after Austin Healey's superb opening try, it ripped the game from the South Africans' grasp in the most dramatic fashion lm-

Bentley struck on 67 minutes, picking up the ball fully 60 metres out, beating two tackles on the wide right before curving inside and giving three more defenders the slip before finishing off under the post. Gauteng breathed fire in the Wainwright and Neil Back giving everything in defence, they were restricted to an iojury time try by Andre Vos, their blind side flanker.

Dawie Du Toit made an embarrassing foul-up of his first penalty shot after Tim Rodber and Neil Back killed the hall on the floor but made no mistake after five minutes when John Bentley was caught well offside near his own posts.

Mike Catt squared it almost immediately from distance hut the Lions were still uoder the cosh - and in more wood's try-saving tackle on Joe Gillingham in the right corner was quickly followed by a humdinger of a punch by Chris Rossouw, the Boks World Cup-winning hooker from 1995, on Barry Williams, bis opposite number. Williams had chosen to use Bruce Thorne as a dormat at a lineout, hut it was Rossouw who

taking. That strong finish to the first

ways than one. Will Greenreceived the ear-bashing from Mr Henning. While Catt struggled to adjust his radar – he hit the left-

hand post twice in the opening half - du Toit settled into his rbythm with two relatively straightforward sbots to give Gauteng a 9-3 advantage at the break. But the Lions finished the first 40 minutes with a spell of encouraging territorial advantage, and had Tony Underwood not stumbled inside the bome 22 after excellent work from Back. Roh Wainwright and Catt, an opening try would have been his for the

period galvanised the Lions and with Back buzzing around like an entire swarm of bees, Gauteng were on their uppers penalty effort but Jeremy Guscott contributed one of his dangerous chip-and-chase raids to win an attacking scrum - a valuable platform wasted when Back knocked on in the tack-

le five metres short. With Jeremy Davidson the dominant force at the line-out. Guscott was finding the sort of snace that makes him a threat to any defence in the world. Sadly, an uncharacteristic missed tackle on Gillingham allowed Gauteng to turn the tables and it needed two of Tony Underwood's bravesi



Johan Roux in the right coroer and a second on Rossouw in the left.

After the stern and unforgiving close-quarter hattle before the interval, the game was now alive with pace and adventure. Nick Beal's hack through would have resulted in a try hut for brilliant defensive work from Hendriks and Anmade amends for his earlier slip by pulling the rampaging Piet Krause to the floor inch-

es from the Lions' line. Then, on the hour, came the hreakthrough. Bentley used his strength to protect Lions' possession close to the right touch line and with help from Williams and Rodber, Greenwood squeezed through the

Gauteng 22, fed Austin Healey with a sublime pass out of the tackle and turned in jubilation to see the scrum-half sprinter outstrip the cover on his way to the right corner. Neil Jenkins, on for the injured Underwood, sank the most awkward of conversions and the Lions were in front for the first time.

J Rouc, R Grau, C Rossouw U Dalton, 52), K van Grunnig N Wese (capt), B Thome, A Vos. W Brosthan, P Krauss.
BRITISH ISLES: N Beal (Northampton and England); J Bentley (Newcastle and England), J Gascett (Bath and England), J Gascett (Bath and England), A Healey (Leicester and England); T Smith (Watsonians and Scotland), a Williams (Richmond and Wales), P Wellace (Stracens and Ireland), N Redman (Bath and England), R Wallmwright (Watsonians and Scotland); R Redber (Northampton and England), R Wallmwright (Watsonians and Scotland); T Redber (Northampton and England), Roglacoments: N Jonkins (Porthampton and England). Roglacoments: N Jonkins (Porthampton and England), Roglacoments: N Jonkins (Porthampton and March) for Underwood, 55.
Referee: T Henning (Northem Transwall).

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Charles Arthur

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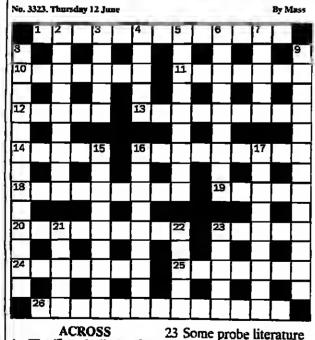
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THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS 1 The French diminutive chap's wearing dearer

jumper (13) 10 Identify gun in Eastern boat (7) 11 Mark or Judas? (7)

and bumbling (5) 13 Just dishes? (5-4) 14 Man from stern of the 2 smack can be heard (5)

16 Earthquake factor. large-scale measure? Half tremor (9)

18 It is a rule possibly to promote routine (9) 19 Dance with a medico in S. America (5)

20 The fling I arranged as

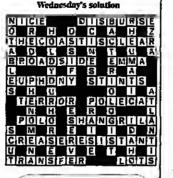
clubland entertainment

for marks of reference 24 Land mass without a lake, part of Europe (7) 25 Outfit engaged in of-

fensive (English)? (7) 12 Writer's rolling in drink 26 Speech impediment? DOWN

Equipped, as it happened (6,3) Play with mounting beat quartet's finale (5) Fellows in digs (5) Girl's pet, timid crea-

A truck on headland causing apprehension



Former paintings put up as collateral (5) Water rate remained unstable around North? (13) Questioned, divorcee during trial raised ma-

terial article (5-8) 15 Gather, take in rough floor cover (6-3) 16 Knock out songster entered among the best

17 Paddy downed mild (9) 21 Blow top of omelette. then taste (5) ture kept around home 22 English bachelor in cheap joint (5)

23 Leaves out with sprinkling of blossom, it seems (5)

Graf's career in doubt

Gauteng: D du fort; J Gillingham, J von der Winht, H le Rour, P Hendriks; L van Rensburg.

JOHN ROBERTS

"I feel I'm in seventh heaven," was how Steffi Graf summarised her Wimhledon triumph last year. Now the valedictory articles are being prepared. And not for the first time.

The great German athlete's career is under threat again fol-lowing further surgery, on this occasion to repair her left knee five days before her 28th hirthday oo Saturday. Rehabilitation is expected to

take six months, and Graf's Austrian surgeon, Reinhard Wein-stabl, has expressed a doubt that the seven-times Wimbledon champion will be able to compete again at the highest level. Graf issued a statement after the operation, saying she was "confident that I will return to the sport which I love so much - and in good health."

Weinstahl, unfortunately, was

less certain. "That is certainly our aim," he said. "Whether that aim can be reached one cannot say now."

The German Olympic team and tennis federation doctor. Joseph Kcul, had supportive words for Graf. "It is a sign of wear and tear that, however, by no means has to mean the end of a career." he said. "I think that Steffi Graf will be 100 per cent again by the eod of the year."

Graf, a perfectionist, is untikely to settle for less than the highest level, even though it will be a difficult decision. She does not have a clear idea what to do with her life after tennis and a hefty slice of her fortune has been lost as a result of her father/manager, Peter's, problems with the German tax authorities.

Currently ranked No 3 in the world, her lowest position for a decade. Graf finds herself caught in the incoming tide of a new generation. Martina Hingis has supplanted her as the No 1, Iva Majoli has won the French Open, and Anna Kournikova and Venus Williams are in the process of cutting their teeth.

This would be hard enough for Graf to deal with if she were fit and confident, but there have been signs that her opponents no longer fear her, 21 Grand Slam titles or not.

At least she will be in good hands. The Gars am Kamp centre has been used by numerous sportsmen and women - the former Formula One racing champion Niki Lauda recuperated there from severe burns suffered in a crash in Germany and returned there recently following a kidney transplant.

Official warning for Villeneuve

Motor racing

Jacques Villeneuve, the Formula One World championship leader who is tipped to lift the title this season, received a warning from the sport's governing body yesterday for criticising planned regulation changes.

After appearing before the world council of the FIA, the world governing body of the sport the Williams-Renault driver said in Paris that he could face a ban if he upset the authorities again. "It's just a warning which means I might get a suspension next time, if there is a next time." he said.

The Canadian, who will be driving in his bome grand prix on Sunday, created upmar in the paddock at Imola last April by insisting that the changes for 1998, involving the use of grooved tyres and narrower cars, were "ridiculous".

On the eve of the opening day's practice for the San Marino Grand Prix. Villeneuve said: "These new regulations are just a joke. To run on these tyres is just ridiculous. It takes all the

precision out of the driving and the racing – as well as the fun – and it is just a ridiculous idea." After talking to the FIA pres-

ident, Max Mosley, and other of-ficials for 10 minutes, he said: "It was a discussion to make things clear and everything went well. The problem is not what I've said but the way I said it. I should have used other words."

Mosley said in Monaco last month that the changes would stand, baving been proposed by the team's engineers, agreed unanimously, and passed by the FIA's world council.

How many Referee: T Henning (Northern Transvaul) balls do you need to make a fortune on the lottery? Two extremely large ones. England. Plus the man who took company valuables out of the country before the w LI EVERY WEDNESDAY

